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Arab-Israeli Talks

Egypt's Musa Addresses Refugee Working Group

NC1005130994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt will spare no effort to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

This came in the foreign minister's speech addressed to the Refugees Working Group of the multilateral peace talks, which began its meetings today. The speech was read out on his behalf by Ambassador Ahmad 'Utham, the head of Egypt's delegation to the meetings.

The foreign minister said Egypt is convinced of the chances for pursuing the long road to peace and overcoming its difficulties and challenges.

Musa reiterated Egypt's stance on the refugee issue. He said that without a fair solution to this problem, there will be no peace or stability in the region, especially after the Palestinians felt that they were left alone to suffer, deprived of their legitimate and acknowledged rights, after their brothers in Namibia and South Africa were liberated.

He also stressed the importance of the repatriation of the diaspora refugees and reunion of the displaced families, noting that the Egyptian delegation can see no reason to delay the realization of such a humane goal.

Representatives from 45 countries, including Israel, in addition to UN and World Bank representatives, are participating in the three days of meetings.

The delegates will discuss several issues, including reuniting Palestinian families, improving the health conditions of the refugees, especially those of the children and women, and improving the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The delegates will also discuss a report from the committee that visited refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon last month.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Oil Minister Addresses Arab Energy Conference

JN0805082094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 May 94

[Excerpts] The fifth Arab Energy Conference began in Cairo today. Arab oil and energy ministers, in addition to the ministers of electricity in the five countries to be linked by a single grid, are participating. These countries are Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey. [passage omitted]

In a speech he delivered for Syria, Dr. Nadir al-Nabulis, minister of oil and mineral resources, said Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad has succeeded in establishing a developed economy and has attained many achievements in the oil and natural gas industry. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Nabulsi said that the imposition of taxes on oil on the pretext of the safety of the environment is not based on clear scientific foundations. [passage omitted]

Conference Issues Recommendations

NC1005192594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—The Fifth Arab Energy Conference has underscored the importance of proceeding with studies and research into oil and energy in the Arab world and developing new methods, particularly at the level of economic institutions.

The conference made recommendations today, stressing the need to continue making efforts to cut the economic and social costs incurred by the growing local consumption of oil. It recommended the expansion of utilizing natural gas to increase the portion of exported oil and its byproducts.

The conference that opened last Saturday called for upgrading exploration operations to increase Arab oil and natural gas reserves and thus meet the expected growth in world demand for oil and benefit from new technologies that have proved feasible in the field of exploration, drilling, and production.

Organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development, the conference called for enhancing opportunities for exchanging natural gas among Arab states. It also called for launching a feasibility study on setting up a natural gas network to link production sites with consuming areas and thus achieve the optimal exploitation of that source.

The conference praised Arab efforts to use new and renewable energies and emphasized the need for paying more attention to the development of Arab capabilities in that field.

Held under the chairmanship of Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi al-Banbi and with the participation of Arab energy and oil ministers, the conference called for going ahead with electricity grid projects in both the Arab Mashreq and Maghreb.

The conference discussed 23 working papers on the oil industry, electricity linkage, and the expansion in using new and renewable energies. It called for expanding the exchange of oil products among Arab states to diversify consuming markets and for encouraging the private sector to set up companies to market and distribute oil products in Arab markets.

The energy conference underlined the need to develop petrochemical industries in Arab states and to expand the manufacture of basic material needed for horizontal integration to cope with the demand in Arab markets, increase exports to world markets, and coordinate among Arab producers in production and marketing.

The Fifth Arab Energy Conference emphasized the need for Arab and international capital to provide the necessary investments to carry out the needed projects in the various fields of energy. It called on Arab and international banks and financial institutions to pay more attention to the preparation of feasibility studies for energy-related projects. It also called for providing the necessary investments to develop the oil sector and for protecting investment-related decisions against fluctuations in oil prices.

The conference stressed the need for Arab countries to preserve the environment and take its protection into consideration in launching development projects. It also urged Arab countries to sensitize the public about protecting the environment and curbing pollution.

The conference expressed concern regarding the negative effects the proposed oil tax might have on oil. It viewed this suggested tax as an act of discrimination against oil, maintaining that the actual goal consuming countries seek to achieve by imposing this tax is to increase their revenues at the expense of the oil-producing developing countries. It also expressed its fears that this tax might have a negative effect on the world economy in general and oil-producing and exporting countries' economies in particular.

The energy conference called for subsidizing Arab scientific research centers to study and follow up on the problem of the changing climate to ensure that the allegations made against petroleum lack scientific proof and that oil is not the main reason behind the increase of the carbon dioxide. It urged research centers to publicize scientific facts, information, and findings of studies into the problem of changing climates.

The conferees urged Arab and developing states to coordinate their stance at international gatherings to explain the negative impacts development programs in these countries might suffer if discriminative measures are taken against petroleum when discussing ways to curb the discharge of pollutant gas into the atmosphere.

It stressed the need for developing a data base on sources of energy and the demand for it in the various economic sectors to use in studies and research. It urged the organizations concerned to supply the Arab Center for Energy Studies with the necessary information and data for its studies.

In its recommendations, the energy conference called for enhancing cooperation among OPEC and non-OPEC states and between them and consuming countries to provide a suitable climate to establish market stability and avoid price fluctuation.

The conference welcomed the invitation Syrian Oil Minister Nadir al-Nabulsi made to hold the sixth energy conference in Damascus in 1998.

Speaking on behalf of the organizing bodies, OAPEC Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Turki expressed appreciation for Egypt, its people, president, and government for hosting the conference. He thanked President Mubarak for helping the conference and Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi for the efforts he made to assist the organizing bodies in arranging it.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Urges End to Yemen Conflict

LD1005171194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] Holy Mecca, 10 May (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League [IWL] in Mecca has urged the leaders of the Yemeni Republic to exercise self-restraint and wisdom and end armed fighting in that dear country, as no one will benefit from such a conflict except the enemies of the Islamic nation.

The league's official spokesman added that the IWL's General Secretariat would like to express its greatest regret at seeing the dispute turning into armed conflict between brothers in Yemen. He added that the IWL, which represents all Muslim peoples, is urging all political leaders and forces in Yemen to end the fighting, resolve their dispute, put an end to the bloody events, and spare Muslim lives. [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 May

NC1105070894

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 3 May issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamists Win Elections in Cairo University Club
2. Muslim Brotherhood Appeals to Yemeni Parties To Preserve Unity
3. Military Court Sentences AL-SHA'B Military Editor
4. Islamic Writer Criticizes Government's Handling of Violence
5. Writer Assails Government's Bid To Foil Political Islam

ISLAMISTS WIN ELECTIONS IN CAIRO UNIVERSITY TEACHING CLUB

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says the Islamic trend at Cairo University won a landslide victory in the elections to the Cairo University Teaching Club. The report notes that the Islamists won the four seats

and that 93 percent of the voters gave their support to the Islamists in a democratic atmosphere.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD APPEALS TO YEMENI PARTIES TO PRESERVE UNITY

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that the Muslim Brotherhood appealed to the parties to the conflict in Yemen to safeguard the public interest and settle differences within the framework of a constructive dialogue based on the shari'ah and to place Yemeni unity above all other considerations. The report says that the Muslim Brotherhood called on the Arab and Muslim leaders and organizations to play the required role in closing the Yemeni ranks and stopping the bloodshed.

MILITARY COURT SENTENCES AL-SHA'B MILITARY EDITOR

A 200-word report on page 1 by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid says that after one hearing, the military court sentenced AL-SHA'B military editor 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn to one year with hard labor and ordered him to pay a 500-pound fine. The paper notes that he was arrested after publishing a report on the Bright Star maneuvers between Egypt and Western countries. The report says that the military editors of the Journalists Syndicate and journalists doyen Ibrahim Naf'i sent a memorandum to the defense minister urging him not to ratify the ruling.

ISLAMIC WRITER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF VIOLENCE

In an approximately 2,000-word article on page 3, Islamic Brotherhood writer Dr. Ahmad al-Malat claims that a trustworthy mosque preacher told him that mosque prayer leaders receive instructions directly from the Awqaf Ministry "not to mention Palestine, talk badly of Jews, or comment on Bosnia in their Friday sermons." Al-Malat asks the Awqaf minister if this is the mosque's mission in the country that is home to the al-Azhar Mosque. He asks: Shouldn't the Muslims know about Islamic issues that are the focus of world media? He says what he calls the intelligence henchmen want the Egyptians to forget the peoples of Palestine and Bosnia and leave them to their fate. He asks if a mosque and a preacher's mission have become so trivial. He argues that this attitude does a great injustice to the sublime mission of Islam and the Muslims' right to know about Muslim issues.

Discussing violence by Muslim youths, al-Malat says: We "agree" with these youths on the goal of serving the Islamic call but "differ" with them over the means. He says Islam calls for preserving the sanctity of life, property, and honor and draws limits that Muslims should not exceed. He says: We the Muslim Brotherhood "cannot accuse these youths of being mercenaries, hirelings, or renegades," as we have no evidence. But we maintain that they are Muslim youths who have "gone astray."

Addressing government officials, al-Malat states that they have a right to pursue crime but within the framework of Islamic shari'ah, not their laws that they call democracy. He claims that government officials have no right to take power, deactivate the laws, and impose the emergency law to "humiliate the people and subjugate them." He suggests that they have no right to prevent particular preachers from addressing the masses. He argues that the Muslim Brotherhood is "more capable of understanding" these youths and closer to the right path of holding a dialogue with them, especially in view of the failure of every government effort embodied in the enlightenment convoys that tour the country. If the officials "think rationally and avoid wielding a heavy stick" it will be easy to address this problem. "Direct dialogue" with these youths is the way to get closest to their minds. This, the author believes, requires "recognition of the right of the Muslim Brotherhood to free movement among the youths without control or spying." He contends that the government can silence voices with whips but cannot stop resentment "seething" in the hearts of youths, which will eventually give vent to disaster.

WRITER ASSAILS GOVERNMENT'S BID TO FOIL POLITICAL ISLAM

Muhammad Jamal Mishhat, in a 500-word column on page 8, discusses the escalating acts of violence in Egypt. He claims that the government and its media "endorse a policy hostile to Islam." He suggests they "penetrated" the Islamic groups, "distorted" their image, and shed their blood. The Muslim Brotherhood, he says, learned from 20 years of experience in jail and notes that "no Muslim Brotherhood member has been involved in acts of violence." The Muslim Brotherhood accepted democracy and entered the People's Assembly and various other associations. They achieved reforms but their "achievements have been fought" and the government is "escalating the confrontation" because it wants to "foil the success of political Islam" in the same way it foiled the attempts to revive economic Islam.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 3 May

NC1105074094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 3 May issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Editor Assails al-Azhar Critics
2. Columnist Urges Law Organizing Religious Rulings
3. Conference Considering Copts as Minority Criticized
4. Religious Seminar Says No Link Between Islam and Terrorism
5. Seminar Says Islamic Penal Code Reforms Society
6. "Koranic Medicine" Offense to Islam
7. Chadian Islamic Official Interviewed
8. Koran Radio To Transmit 24 Hours Per Day

EDITOR ASSAILS AL-AZHAR CRITICS

In his back-page 400-word "A Call to Reason" column, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf mocks "the children of the West" in Egypt who call for minimizing the role of al-Azhar. He cites some of the ideas of these "children," who he says "claim to lead an enlightenment campaign." For example, he says, they accuse al-Azhar of expanding the base of extremism and opening the door to terrorism. They are further quoted as advocating that Islamic education at schools must be kept to a minimum "so that extremist thought may not invade the minds of our sons and daughters and threaten national unity." And they are said to deny the existence of such things as moderate Islam, as opposed to extremist Islam. Commenting on this, the writer says: "May God curse an enlightenment essentially based on demolishing religion, desecrating sanctities, and undermining the constant principles that preserved this nation for centuries despite vicious attacks. May God protect Islam and Egypt from every treacherous hand trying to harm them, either by bullets or the pen."

COLUMNIST URGES LAW ORGANIZING RELIGIOUS RULINGS

In his 400-word "Rightfully I Say" column on page one, Samir Rajab, the newspaper's board chairman, calls for unifying fatwas [religious rulings]. He calls for legislation imposing severe punishment on anyone passing fatwas without having the official power to do so. To support his call, he claims that mosques, which are open to anyone, "were behind the breeding of terrorism. False muftis emerged along with false preachers, and they both played a serious role in planting the seeds of terrorism." The writer believes that "depending on security alone to face the phenomenon of terrorism is not enough." He urges the government to rush to draft a law unifying fatwas "otherwise the government would be supporting terrorism without knowing it."

CONFERENCE LABELLING COPTS AS MINORITY CRITICIZED

A 700-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah on page two focuses on a conference on minorities in the Arab world and the Middle East organized by an Egyptian studies center. 'Abdallah says: Many accusations have been leveled against the organizers, especially for characterizing the Copts in Egypt as a minority. Dr. Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim, president of the organizing center, is cited defending the conference and the British organization financing it. Ibrahim says that objection to the presentation of Egypt's Copts as a minority is acceptable but he stresses that the conference aim is to discuss the problems and concerns of the Copts in Egypt, not their status.

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi, secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, is quoted criticizing the conference and maintaining that Egypt's Copts cannot be labelled as a minority because they are Egyptians governed by the Egyptian Constitution and have the same rights and duties as Muslims. He says Copts have no special problems or concerns. Former Government Attorney Edward Ghali al-Dhahabi describes the conference as "very bad" and maintains that Copts are an integral part of Egyptian society.

A related item on the conference, a 700-word article by Majdi Salim on page 10, discusses attempts to "wake up sedition" under the guise of freedom of expression and thought. Implicitly referring to the minorities conference as one of these attempts, the writer states: "Every citizen in Egypt is Egyptian. They are all of the same race. There is no such thing as a minority or majority and everyone has citizenship rights without discrimination." In his article, Salim also refers to writers who criticized a decision by some governors to prevent the use of satellite dishes in cafes and public places in their governorates to protect youths from watching explicit movies.

RELIGIOUS SEMINAR SAYS NO LINK BETWEEN ISLAM AND TERRORISM

An approximately 2,000-word report on page four, attributed to Mamduh al-'Ushri, Musa Hal, and Nazih Fudah, details a religious seminar organized by 'AQIDATI at a youth center in al-Daqahliyah Governorate. Speakers addressed the audience and answered questions on religious issues and practices. Asked about Islam's relationship with terrorism, the newspaper's chief editor, al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, is quoted as replying: "There is no relationship between Islam and terrorism. Indeed, Western media are seriously and intentionally promoting this mistaken belief and, regrettably, some news media here are joining them, with bad intentions." He is cited adding: "The assassinations or bombings taking place here cannot be linked with Islam, even if they are perpetrated by Muslims. These people are not real Muslims. Islam is not a bloody religion." He is further quoted as saying that confronting terrorism is the responsibility of all society.

SEMINAR SAYS ISLAMIC PENAL CODE REFORMS SOCIETY

An approximately 1,500-word unattributed report on page 10 cites speakers at a seminar on "The Concept of Integration of Islam" organized by the Islamic Research and Studies Center at Cairo University. The speakers discuss the foundations of Islam that make it an integrated religion. One of these, according to one speaker, is Islamic legislation—the laws and provisions that organize the life of the Muslim individual and group and that determine punishments. Dr. Muhammad Baltaji, dean of Dar-al-'Ulum College, is cited attacking those who brand the Islamic system of punishment as inhuman. He says the application of the Islamic penal code, which does not differentiate between the rich and the poor, or the strong and the weak, reforms society. He adds: "The application of the penal code is the way out of today's problems. The best proof is that the rate of crime is less in societies that apply shari'ah than in others."

"KORANIC MEDICINE" OFFENSE TO ISLAM

Pages 12 and 13 feature an approximately 3,500-word report by Jamal Salim discussing "a serious phenomenon spreading in several towns and villages in Egypt's countryside, namely, medical treatment through the Koran." "Koranic doctors" reportedly treat all kinds of illness, from fatigue and colic to paralysis and impotence. The reporter asks Egypt's mufti, Muhammad Tantawi, and other clerics, psychologists, and sociologists about this practice. They maintain that the phenomenon offends Islam and they attribute it to ignorance and to charlatans exploiting people's religious sentiments. Tantawi says the Koran can be used to treat souls for hatred, envy, and similar psychological symptoms but not physical diseases.

A related 150-word report by Musa Hal on page one says al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee warned against the Koran being used by charlatans to profit and exploit simple-minded people under the pretext of treating diseases. The committee said that using the Koran to mislead the simple is a major crime and a sin.

CHADIAN ISLAMIC OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

On page 20 there is an approximately 1,500-word interview with the chairman of the Higher Islamic Affairs Council in Chad, Imam Husayn Hasan Abu-Bakr, by Tariq 'Abdallah. Abu-Bakr discusses the problems facing Muslims in his country, al-Azhar's important role in serving Islam, and features of an Islamic awakening in Chad.

KORAN RADIO TO TRANSMIT 24 HOURS PER DAY

A 50-word report by Mamduh al-'Ashri on page one cites Information Minister Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif ordering an extension of the Koran radio's transmission to 24 hours a day throughout the year, effective 31 May 1994.

Commenting on the decision in a 200-word article on page 18, Mamduh al-'Ashri thanks the information minister and urges him to instruct the television's management to broadcast religious programs at suitable times so as to serve Islam and spread the right religious awareness.

Palestinian Affairs

First Palestinian Police Forces Enter Gaza Strip

NC1005154294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Al-'Arish, 10 May (MENA)—The first groups of Palestinian troops have started to enter the Gaza Strip via the border passageway of Rafah. A total of 152 security troops and 24 vehicles with their drivers have crossed.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian Security Forces, has stated that 7,000 policemen who have been living abroad will enter within three weeks, led by the Cairo-based 'Ayn Jalut troops and those coming from Yemen, Libya, and Sudan.

He added that the troops coming from the Badr Camp in Jordan and the al-Aqsa Camp from Iraq will enter simultaneously on the West Bank via the Allenby Bridge. He pointed out that these troops will be increased to 9,000 with the troops within the territories.

Maj. Gen. Nasr affirmed that this number of Palestinian police forces [words indistinct] to cover the autonomy areas to establish security. He added that the troops will deal with the Palestinian people as their sons, resorting to persuasion and dialogue.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stated that some procedural problems concerning the size and armaments of the troops, the political and military dimensions, and financing and administrative aspects had existed. He added that the families of these troops will enter after the matter is discussed and coordinated with the Israeli side.

Another 100 troops are expected to enter tomorrow, Wednesday. The process will continue until 25 May.

Further on Police Force's Arrival

TA1005153694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] About 150 Palestinian policemen crossed into the Gaza Strip from Egypt this evening. They were the first group to enter Gaza under the Israel-PLO agreement signed in Cairo last week. Thousands of Palestinians gathered in Rafah to greet the policemen, who drove across the border in buses and U.S. donated military vehicles. They are headed for Dayr al-Balah, where they will be stationed in the present Civil Administration building. They were wearing olive-green uniforms and berets, and waved Palestinian flags.

Qol Yisra'el's correspondent on the spot reports that there is much excitement among the local population seeing the first sign of the transfer of power. Before their arrival, the new Palestinian police commander in Gaza, Nasr Yusuf, held a joint news conference with the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'. Yusuf called it a historic day for the Palestinian people; the first day on the road to their independence. And, he added, we hope to have good relations with all our neighbors.

Earlier today, Israeli officials began handing over offices and supplies to Palestinian officials in Jericho. It was the start of a two-day handover. The actual transfer of power is to take place on Thursday [12 May]. The entry of Palestinian police into Jericho is expected tomorrow.

Jericho Area Commander on Police Crossing Delay

JN1005202894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 94

[Interview With Brigadier General Isma'il Jabr, Palestinian commander of the Jericho area police, by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in the Jordan valley on 10 May—recorded]

[Text] [Jabr] The crossing of Palestinian police to Jericho was to have taken place today. A previously scheduled meeting was held today with the Israeli side with the objective of setting the crossing into motion. However, the Israeli side said it could not let the entry of the Palestinian police force go ahead, citing political reasons. However, we managed to smooth over some snags holding up the entry. For our part, we informed them we were poised to crossing at the very moment we were holding talks with them.

[Dhiyab] What were the most important points you agreed on in your talks with the Israeli side?

[Jabr] The Israeli side said it would refer to its command for clearance to start the crossing. As I have said, we told them we were ready to move as of yesterday.

Palestinian Security Men Arrive on Saudi Planes

NC1005203094 Cairo MENA in English 1914 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Al-'Arish, Egypt, May 10 (MENA)—A group of 121 Palestinian security men arrived at al-'Ajurah airport from [name indistinct] tonight aboard three Saudi aircraft. Other troops will arrive from Yemen later, said Palestinian security director Major General Nasr Yusuf.

Other Palestinian forces from Somalia and Libya will also arrive later, he said.

'Arafat Asks Government Workers To Remain in Posts

LD1005181794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, issued today a decision requesting all the brothers working in the government administrations, institutions, and organs in Palestine to remain in their working positions according to the decision of the Executive Committee adopted at an earlier meeting held this month.

Following is the text of the decision:

The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, and in accordance with the decision of the PLO Executive Committee issued on 4 May 1994, the powers accorded him, and the prerequisites of national interest, decides the following:

1. The brothers working in all government administrations, institutions, and organs in Palestine should remain at their posts and continue the discharge of their normal duties.

2. The National Authority demands the precise and honest discharge of all responsibilites laid on our shoulders as a whole at this historic period to ensure the proper running of the work and in the service of the children of our struggling people and militant masses.

3. This decision shall be in force from its date and all concerned must be informed.

Statement Rejects Israeli Claims on Jerusalem

TA1005181394 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 May 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] Jerusalem—A press release issued yesterday by Orient House [PLO headquarters in Jerusalem] says: The Israeli authorities continue to pursue the fait accompli policy toward Arab Jerusalem by reinforcing a series of practices aimed at enhancing a growing settlement reality in the city at the expense of the Arab presence. These authorities are trying to exploit the so-called (Jerusalem day) to affirm these settlement measures through statements that try to turn facts upside down and ignore the reality on the ground.

Naturally, (Jerusalem day), which the Israelis celebrate, means nothing to us other than an occasion for repeating rejected Israeli positions that contradict the substance of the peace process, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Resolution 252 issued on 21 May 1968. This resolution affirmed the international community's rejection of Israeli measures in Jerusalem and considered the city to be an integral part of the occupied territories.

It has become obvious even to the Israelis themselves that the political, social, and cultural reality which Jerusalem has experienced during 27 years of occupation affirms the failure of all Israeli attempts to unify and Judaize Jerusalem and integrate its Arab residents. The few meters separating Arab Jerusalem from West Jerusalem embody a vast distance as large as the one separating myth from reality and unfounded historic claims based on the principle of force from the brilliant historic reality that affirms the Arab and Islamic character of Jerusalem and the beating heart that it represents to the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation.

The Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process and the ensuing phased agreements necessarily obligates the Israeli side to abide by the principles, steps, and measures relating to the interim and final stages. It should stop the unilateral Israeli measures that are liable to prejudice Palestinian rights, especially those pertaining to Jerusalem, when the final talks are launched. Jerusalem will be a top priority of those talks as the political and historic capital of the future Palestinian state.

Envoy Reacts to Rabin's Statement on Refugees

NC0805172894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador and Fatah representative in Cairo, has praised the role played by President Mubarak and the Egyptian leadership and their great efforts to make the peace process a success. In a statement to MENA, he said that the Arab Republic of Egypt, led by President Mubarak, is making available all its resources to help implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and enable the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, to regain their rights and build their independent state.

Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement on the return of refugees, al-Qidrah said that the statement has nothing to do with reality, as the Oslo agreement expressly provides for the return of the refugees of 1967 and later refugees to their homeland. He pointed out that the task of the quadripartite committee according to an agreement among Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, and Israel is to coordinate the process of the refugees' return and not to discuss the principle of their return.

Development Council Official on Implementation Delay

JN0605151394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 May 94

[Telephone interview with Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development; place not given; by Ziyad Halabi, in the studio, on 4 May—recorded]

[Halabi] Good evening, Mr. Hasan Abu-Libdah.

[Abu-Libdah] Good evening to you.

[Halabi] After yesterday's signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, we thought it would take immediate effect, but this has not happened. Why?

[Abu-Libdah] There is more to the matter than mechanics. Logistical and technical requirements must be secured before any kind of meaningful implementation takes place.

[Halabi] Can you elaborate on the impediments that seem to be holding up immediate implementation?

[Abu-Libdah] We have been discussing security and political considerations with the Israelis. Logistically and technically, we need to make sure, in the relatively short time we have before the transfer of power, that we familiarize ourselves with the inner workings of the system. Let's not forget that over the past 27 years, the majority of the departments whose control will devolve to us have been under near total Israeli control. Whereas until now we have been marginally and peripherally involved in the running of things, we now find we have to administer things ourselves. It is, therefore, natural that there are obstacles to a successful administration. I hope, however, that the transfer of power will take place relatively smoothly.

[Halabi] Are you attributing the delay to a lack of practical Palestinian experience?

[Abu-Libdah] Very much so. It is no secret that, despite the fact that several thousand Palestinians have staffed various departments of the Civil Administration in the occupied territories, they did not hold top managerial positions. The challenge for the Palestinians who will staff the civilian departments that will become the backbone of the self-rule authority is to take over as managers and legislators. We have ahead of us a tough challenge, which we think we will eventually tackle successfully.

[Halabi] What about the time challenge? Is three months enough before the agreement is implemented and the Palestinians take over?

[Abu-Libdah] In my opinion, the transfer of power will take a long time. The mechanical transfer should not take more than three to four weeks. However, in my opinion, the departments in which there will be a transfer of power cannot be properly described as Palestinian before certain conditions are met. One of these is a structure devised from a Palestinian perspective. It will take some time before it will be possible to describe the government agencies as 100 percent Palestinian in form and content. However, the mechanical transfer of power and the institution of new agencies should not take that long. I think the PLO can handle an immediate transfer of power, but it seems the political leadership in Tunis has decided the transfer of power can wait for another three weeks—not the three months that you have mentioned—during which time certain logistical and technical hurdles will, hopefully, have been surmounted.

[Halabi] Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development, thank you.

[Abu-Libdah] Thank you.

Al-Nashashibi on Palestinian-Israeli Economic Issues

PM1005152094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the PLO Economic Department and deputy chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] What questions are included on the agenda of the Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction?

[Al-Nashashibi] Among the first questions which we have begun to discuss in the council's meeting is the

basic code issue and the appointment of the heads of departments in view of the interviews which the experts committee conducted with the Palestinians nominated for these posts at the council's request in Amman in late March.

[Khashanah] Is it true that the problem between the PLO on the one hand and the United States and the World Bank on the other regarding the council's formation was solved at the recent Christopher-'Arafat meeting in Cairo?

[Al-Nashashibi] That is true.

[Khashanah] Did the agreement on the transfer of powers signed in Cairo by 'Arafat and Rabin fulfill the Palestinian leadership's expectations of the meeting?

[Al-Nashashibi] The important thing is for the agreement to fulfill the Palestinian people's aspiration to freedom and independence. That depends on our people's continuation of the struggle for the sake of their aims. Because the agreement in its present form does not achieve the necessary steps leading to an independent Palestinian state. However, I am confident that our people will struggle competently to regain their rights in full.

[Khashanah] How will the outstanding issues be resolved?

[Al-Nashashibi] Experience with Israel so far does not inspire optimism about an imminent solution to the outstanding issues. However, our determination to achieve what we have not yet agreed upon at this stage is the means to recover our rights. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] To what extent does the economic accord signed in Paris between the PLO and Israel sever the linkage between the Palestinian and Israeli economies?

[Al-Nashashibi] The accord reduces the chances of severing the linkage and perpetuates Israel's control over the Palestinian economy. The preamble stipulates that "the two sides should continue to cooperate in the economic sphere in order to establish a sound economic foundation on which joint relations would develop"—which conflicts with our basic aim of building an economy free from the subservience imposed by Israeli authorities during the occupation. I believe that the preamble should have stipulated that the Palestinian people have the right to establish their own independent national economy in accordance with the states' and peoples' economic charter endorsed by the United Nations and which guarantees "the peoples' right to build their own national economies away from any foreign intervention." [passage omitted]

Service Contracts Signed With Foreign Firms

TA0705061294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Palestinian negotiator Jamil al-Tarifi says the Palestine National Authority has signed new temporary contracts with the Israeli water, electricity, and communications companies to continue their services in Gaza and Jericho until the PLO takes over. He says he expects the takeover to take place on 17 May.

According to al-Tarifi, the Palestinian authority has already signed contracts with large foreign companies to supply the self-rule areas with the services they need. A Canadian company will supply Gaza with 100 megawatts of electricity from a ship off the Gaza coast, and after two months, the company will double its supply.

Jericho will continue to receive electricity from Israel until an alternative becomes available. The Meqorot water company has also promised to continue supplying water until an alternative is found.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 May cites al-Tarifi as announcing that "a French company by the name of (Marbec) will supply the Strip with fuel and build a small oil refinery."]

Hamas Moves Media Activity From Amman to Damascus

JN0705101194 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 7-13 May 94 p 5

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, has said Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will not take up arms against either the [illegible]ule authority or Fatah members.

In the last press statement he made in Amman before Hamas moved its media activity from Amman to Damascus, Nazzal said: We only call on the self-rule authority not to stand against Hamas Movement's program calling for the end of Israeli occupation.

APF Calls Accord 'Reorganization of Occupation'

JN0605165594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 94

["Text" of statement issued by the APF on 4 May; place not given—recorded, read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of the God, the merciful, the compassionate. A political statement released by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF]:

The APF's Central Command has convened a meeting to study the dangers of the agreement signed in Cairo between 'Arafat—who has, along with his team, switched over to the camp of the enemies of the people and the revolution—and Rabin, the prime minister of the

Zionist entity, in the Cairo circus, with the Americans playing the role of sponsors and the Egyptians playing the role of middleman.

The APF's Central Command decided to expose the risks the agreement carries for the rights of our people to liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and national independence.

The APF's Central Command would like to make the following points:

This agreement of capitulation is little more than a reorganization of occupation and redeployment of the occupying military along the borders with Egypt and Jordan, the crossings, road junctures, and the security arrangements around the Zionist settlements. Thus, the agreement amounts to a complete capitulation to U.S.-Zionist terms, turning Gaza and Jericho into discrete crossings and cantons.

This agreement blatantly ignores Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, as well as the Palestinian refugees and their right to return to their homeland, leaving them vulnerable to resettlement in the host countries and in the diaspora.

This agreement ignores thousands of Palestinian expellees and prisoners and detainees who are being held in the prisons of the occupation authority. The agreement of liquidation approaches their case selectively, providing the release of several hundred detainees, whose prison terms had either nearly or completely expired.

This agreement sets out to tear asunder the land and people and marks a dangerous gateway for the Zionist penetration of our Arab nation and people with a view to controlling their resources through a plan of normalized relations, which has already begun in certain Arab capitals.

Driven by our concern for the supreme Palestinian interests, and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab and Muslim nations and world public opinion, the alliance announces the following:

First, this agreement of liquidation is null and void and is binding neither on the Palestinian people, nor on the Arab and Islamic masses. The signers of the agreement do not speak for the Palestinian people. Accordingly, we urge our Palestinian and Arab masses to take a determined stand against this U.S.-Zionist-'Arafatist conspiracy being peddled by certain Arab governments, led by the Camp David regime.

Second, the APF reiterates its determination to maintain the struggle and thwart the implementation of this agreement. It calls on the Palestinian and Arab masses to boycott the self-rule institutions and defy all their decisions, including a boycott of the elections. The APF further calls for ostracizing and besieging the self-rule clique as a tool of repression manipulated by occupation, as envisaged in the ominous agreement.

We urge our Arab and Islamic masses and the patriotic governments and world public opinion to stand by the Palestinian people's struggle and support them as they fight to topple the agreement. We call on them to boycott and refuse to have anything to do with the self-rule institutions and agencies as a confirmation of our people's cohesion with the Arab and Islamic nations.

Third, the alliance reiterates a commitment to the continuation, escalation, and enhancement of the valiant intifadah. It also pledges to secure whatever is necessary to ensure the continued dynamism of the intifadah until the national goals of our people are attained.

Fourth, what 'Arafat and his team have done in signing the agreement with the Zionist enemy in Cairo amounts to treason against the nation, the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, and the disposal of the PLO. The APF reiterates its adherence to the PL0 as a national achievement and demands that its institutions be rebuilt on democratic foundations.

The APF extends greetings to our people who have renounced this agreement by declaring the signing day a day of national strike and national mourning. The alliance hails our people's valiant intifadah as it confronts occupation, and urges them to close ranks and upgrade their militant, mass action inside and outside the occupied territory with the objective of toppling the agreement of humiliation and disgrace and realizing the aspirations of the Palestinian people. It calls for 15 May, 1994—the anniversary of the theft of Palestine—to be observed as a day of sweeping anger in the homeland and in the diaspora.

Jibril, Habash, Hawatimah Speak at APF Meeting

JN1005102194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The Central Command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has been meeting since 1800 [1500 GMT] today at the Martyr Samir Darwish Hall in the al-Khalisah building of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the al-Yarmuk Camp in Damascus in order to discuss the situation of the sons of our Palestinian people in Lebanon and the diaspora and confront the conspiracy represented by the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement signed recently in Cairo.

Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general, said in a statement before the meeting: As Palestinian alliance forces, we will discuss in this and other meetings the extent of the serious impact of the treasonous 'Arafat-Rabin agreement on four million Palestinians in the diaspora and on their future.

Jibril asserted that there are multiparty conspiracies to dismiss the issue of the land with regard to millions of Palestinians in the diaspora. There are also plans to evict

the Palestinians in Lebanon to states that are far away from Palestine such as Latin and North America.

Jibril added: Here, I would like to clearly say that the Palestinians in the diaspora were basically the backbone of the Palestinian revolution and offered great sacrifices throughout the past 30 years. Through the Cairo agreement, we now see that those who signed it want to completely destroy the future of the Palestinian sons in the diaspora.

Jibril asserted that the APF is looking into ways to confront the treasonous Oslo agreement in and outside the occupied territories.

George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also made a statement in which he asserted that the aim of the APF meeting is to discuss the threats the Oslo-Cairo agreement poses against our people in Lebanon and the dangers facing them, represented by forcing settlement and displacement on them.

On the escalation of the heroic Palestinian intifadah, Habash said that the APF will work to escalate the intidafah because what happened in Gaza and Jericho is not a withdrawal but a redeployment of the Zionist enemy forces.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, made a statement in which he said that this meeting with Palestinian leaders stationed on Lebanese territory is to discuss basically the bitter harvest of the Oslo-Cairo agreement, which is now raising its ugly head in Lebanon, and its threats to the fate of our Palestinian people in this Arab country.

Hawatimah asserted that the Palestinian people in the diaspora are the losers in the Cairo agreement because they are completely excluded. The right of self-determination for the people at home has been eliminated. Therefore, the APF in the 4 May meeting, dealt with the problems at home and the self-rule in light of the practical application of the Cairo agreement. Today, the entire meeting is devoted to how to contain the Oslo-Cairo agreement's threats against our people abroad.

PFLP-GC Communique on Israeli Al-Na'imah Raids

JN1005180194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Military communique:

In confirmation of the threats that Clinton has made to those who oppose the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement and after the ceremony of selling and liquidating our people's rights and cause, represented by the agreement signed by 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo on the 4th of this month, the outlines of this agreement and its secret annexes have started to be translated into actions on the ground against the positions of the strugglers.

At 1200 today, 10 May 1994, squadrons of the Zionist-U.S. enemy aircraft carried out several barbaric raids on PFLP-GC institutions that provide humanitarian, medical, and other services in the al-Na'imah area south of Beirut. The enemy aircraft carried out six raids over a period of two hours on these positions, hurling tonnes of their hatred and destruction. The Zionist aircraft continue to overfly the area.

The military spokesman continued: We in the PFLP-GC view this Zionist aggression as an extension of the Hebron massacre and the policy of killing and terrorism that the U.S. peace brings with it and which pursues its open war against our people's aspirations and rights and seeks to undermine the morale of the mujahdin who struggle to regain their rights.

As for our losses, they are limited and minor. We will issue a communique later as the situation and needs dictate.

The military spokesman added: It is important for us in the PFLP-GC to emphasize to the masses of our nation and people that our political stand and struggle will continue in spite of what is being concocted against our rights, against our people, and against our nation. We are confident about achieving inevitable victory. The Zionist-U.S. policy of terrorism will not separate us from our cause. We pledge to pursue the revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Communique Denies Casualties in Raids

JN1005180994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 10 May 94

["Military Communique No. 2" issued by the PFLP-GC on 10 May]

[Text] Further to the first military communique issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], on the air raids launched by the Zionist enemy aircraft against the PFLP-GC's social and humanitarian institutions at 1200 today, 10 May 1994, the PFLP-GC military spokesman has stated the following:

The Zionist enemy aircraft have continued their terrorist raids against the positions mentioned in the previous communique, having failed to inflict the losses they had planned to inflict.

In an attempt to spread panic among secure civilians and draw attention to its suspect aims; on the pretext of

talking about military posts in populated civilian areas; and in implementation of the policy of confronting all those who oppose the agreements that seek to liquidate our Palestinian cause, the Zionist enemy aircraft have launched new raids at 1720 today, thus raising the total number of raids to 11.

As usual, the Zionist enemy has claimed that it has inflicted casualties within the ranks of the PFLP-GC. This was reported by other news media.

We in the PFLP-GC deny sustaining any casualties within the ranks of our fighters. We reassert that the locations targeted by the air raids are civilian institutions that provide free humanitarian aid.

We stress that the Zionist political and military raids will not prevent us from sticking to our objectives and jihad positions and our confrontation of the conspiracy of surrender.

We pledge to pursue the march until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

PFLP Claims Attack on Israeli Bus Near Ramallah

JN1105094394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has claimed responsibility for the attack on an Israeli bus near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. A statement signed by the vanguards of comrade martyr Wadi' Haddad was distributed in the occupied Palestinian territories today. The statement says that in continuation of the policy of revolutionary violence and armed militancy, the Ibrahim al-Ra'i group has attacked an Israeli bus carrying Zionist settlers.

In reference to the Palestinian self-rule agreement, the statement says that agreements will not protect the usurpers of our territories and displacers of our people.

Palestinian Poll on Autonomy Elections, Settlements

TA1005195694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 May 94 pp 1, 7

[Results of opinion poll conducted by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies among 2,006 residents of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip on 19 April—all figures as published]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] 1. What is the best way for forming the Palestinian interim self-government council?

- 16.5 percent—appointments by the PLO.
- 8.9 percent—appointments by movements, trends, and organizations.
- 72.6 percent—general political elections.
- 2.0 percent—no opinion.

2. Will you take part in general elections to choose members for the Palestinian self-rule council?

- 72.4 percent—yes.
- 14.2 percent—no.
- 13.4 percent—not sure.

3. What is the best way for setting up Palestinian municipal councils?

- 5.2 percent—restoring the dismissed elected councils.
- 71.2 percent—holding new elections.
- 9.2 percent—appointment of councils by the Palestinian authority.
- 12.8 percent—restoring the elected councils for a limited period.
- 1.0 percent—no opinion.

4. Are you in favor of women having the right to vote in the elections?

- 79.4 percent—yes.
- 14.6 percent—no.
- 6.0 percent—(not specified)

5. If a Palestinian woman becomes a candidate in the elections, will you be ready to vote for her?

- 63.1 percent—yes, if she is qualified.
- 21.0 percent—no, men are usually more qualified.
- 10.7 percent—no, I do not favor a woman becoming a candidate in the elections.
- 5.2 percent—no opinion.

6. For whose candidates will you vote if elections for a Palestinian interim self-government council are held?

- 7.2 percent—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.
- 2.1 percent—FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union]
- 15.9 percent—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]
- 1.5 percent—the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.
- 37.8 percent—Fatah.
- 3.7 percent—Islamic Jihad.
- 2.0 percent—the People's Party.
- 6.0 percent—independent Islamists.
- 9.5 percent—independent nationalists.
- 1.8 percent—other organizations.
- 12.5 percent—none of the above.

7. What should be the fate of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the end of the interim period?

- 84.3 percent—I favor their total dismantlement and the withdrawal of all settlers.
- 9.5 percent—some settlements may be maintained provided their inhabitants become subject to Palestinian law and police.
- 4.8 percent—not sure.

- 1.4 percent—no opinion.

8. What should be the fate of refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

- 27.6 percent—I am in favor that they remain as they are until a final agreement is reached.
- 39.3 percent—I support the transfer of their residents to new housing projects.
- 30.5 percent—I am in favor that they remain with improved housing and living conditions.
- 2.6 percent—no opinion. [passage omitted]

Majority Want To Keep Refugee Camps in Territories

NC0805085294 Paris AFP in English 0833 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Jerusalem, May 8 (AFP)—A majority of Palestinians in the occupied territories believe their refugee camps should remain in place until a final settlement is reached with the Israelis, a survey published Sunday [8 May] showed.

More than 58 percent favoured maintaining the 27 refugee camps over the scheduled five-year interim period of autonomy, the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies found.

Half of those nonetheless wanted to see conditions improve in the overcrowded camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

However 39 percent preferred to transfer the 430,000 camp dwellers to new housing projects. The remainder voiced no opinion in the poll carried out by the Nablus-based centre.

About one million Palestinians are registered as refugees with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, but 60 percent live outside the camps.

The April 19 survey found that nearly 37.8 percent of Palestinians in the territories would vote for Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream PLO movement Fatah if elections were held to an autonomy council now.

In March, the centre's poll registered 36.4 percent support.

Backing for the Moslem fundamentalists was stable at about 16 percent in the latest survey, which questioned 2,006 Palestinians and had a three percent margin of error.

Algeria

Security Forces Arrest 30 in Weekend Raids

LD1005230594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The security forces have announced that they managed to kill eight members of armed groups and arrest 30 others between 6-9 May in Algiers, Blida, Batna, Boumerdes, Ain Defla, Sidi Bel Abbes, Mascara, Skikda, and Bordj Bou Arreridj.

The same source added that during these operations the security forces recovered a quantity of weapons.

France Arrests FIS 'Activist' Transporting Arms

LD1005200294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Regarding reports on terrorism, the Algerian national Abdelkrim Boutrif appeared before a French magistrate today and was remanded in custody. Boutrif was arrested on the French-German border in possession of a quantity of weapons and ammunition. In the trunk of his car police discovered over 129 sticks of dynamite, about 100 detonators, some 3,000 bullets, three automatic pistols, night vision binoculars, and 14 two-way radios.

Abdelkrim Boutrif is 34 and an activist in the banned Islamic Salvation Front. His mission was to drive the car and its contents all the way to Spain, from where this arsenal would have been taken to Algeria.

Egypt

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives With Message From Salih

NC1005202894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival he stated that he is carrying a written message to President Husni Mubarak from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni minister was received at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Badr Hammam, Master of Ceremonies Hasan al-'Ajayzi, and the Yemeni ambassador in Cairo.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1105085394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hammam.

The Yemeni foreign minister arrived in Cairo last night on a brief visit to Egypt to hand President Mubarak a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Holds News Conference on 'Rebellion'

NC1105104994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 11 May 94

[News conference by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah with unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] [Basindwah] I was honored a short time ago to meet His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The meeting was very positive. I explained what is happening in Yemen and assured him that we adhere to Yemen's unity. I conveyed a verbal message from his excellency's brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Events in Yemen are a confrontation of an attempt at rebellion by a group or faction from the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] that failed to realize that it should have adhered to constitutional legitimacy. It tried to defy this legitimacy and violate law and order. It triggered fighting, which is about to end in a day or even sooner, God willing. Then things will return to normal. I believe that the news coming out of Aden is false. The fighting now is going on around Aden, which is almost besieged. We pay no attention to what is being said and will let the results on the ground speak for themselves.

[Correspondent] Is your activity through diplomatic channels proof that the [words indistinct]?

[Basindwah] Naturally we give special importance to all our brothers, particularly President Husni Mubarak, the leader of the biggest Arab country. We have an obligation to inform them of what is happening in our country. But our eagerness to keep them informed does not mean that we are not sure of our ability to settle the issue within hours or in less than a day or two. Are we required to hide things from our brothers? If this is the case, then it is a different story. Telling our brothers what is going on does not mean that we are uncertain of our ability to settle the issue or that we think the fighting will go on long. This is not true.

[Correspondent] Do you suspect that some neighboring countries support the south?

[Basindwah] We do not suspect the impartiality of the Arab countries or that they are eager not to interfere in Yemeni affairs. Such accusations against any neighboring and fraternal states are rejected.

[Correspondent] Does the Yemeni Government still refuse any kind of mediation, be it Arab or otherwise?

[Basindwah] Of course we agree to an end to the bloodshed, providing that those who have defied constitutional legitimacy and law and order abide by the unity of

Yemen and its Constitution and subject the troops that remain under their control to the authority of the legitimate leadership that represents constitutional legitimacy in Yemen. We will allow no organization to run militias or to control part of the Yemeni Armed Forces.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that war is the best way to maintain Yemen's unity?

[Basindwah] We have never believed that war is the best way to safeguard Yemen's unity. But this war has been imposed upon us. The war was not triggered by us, as a legitimate authority in Yemen, but by those who have violated law and order and constitutional legitimacy. Our consolation in confronting those outlaws who imposed a fight on us is God's saying: "Fighting is prescribed for you, ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing that is good for you, and that ye love a thing that is bad for you. But God knoweth and ye know not." [Koranic verse]

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] non-Yemeni elements involved in the fighting. Is this true?

[Basindwah] These are sheer lies and fabrication. The YSP leadership previously claimed that it captured a large group from the al-Jihad Organization in Abyan. When we ordered Aden Governor Salih Munassar to hand over these Egyptian elements from the al-Jihad Organization to the Egyptian consul in Aden, he refused to hand any over, perhaps because he had none in the first place. I tell the brothers in the YSP leadership to hand over to the Egyptian authorities any Egyptian group from the al-Jihad Organization that they may have.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Basindwah] This is not true. You may come and see the positions for yourselves. This is an attempt to turn the Arab states against us. These are lies and fabrication. We do not need to use Iraqis, Sudanese, or others. We are absolutely not short of men.

[Correspondent] To save the homeland could you....

[Basindwah, interrupting] This is nonsense. Things have already been settled and are now in the final phase.

[Correspondent] Is President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih willing to negotiate with the YSP leadership?

[Basindwah] I believe that the elements in the YSP leadership who are responsible for triggering the rebellion and the war must give themselves up. They will be guaranteed a fair trial. Thank you.

Musa Comments on Talks, Ties With South Africa

NC1005162694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Pretoria, 10 May (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held several meetings with his Arab, African, and European counterparts on the sidelines of South Africa's celebration of the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the country's president.

Musa told the MENA correspondent in Johannesburg that he discussed the latest developments in Yemen with the Arab ministers, developments in Rwanda with the African ministers, and Egyptian-European cooperation with the European ministers.

Musa affirmed that relations between Egypt and South Africa will move toward new horizons starting now, noting that diplomatic representation between the two countries was upgraded to ambassadorial level yesterday. He said Egypt and South Africa will establish firm relations between the two governments and businessmen in both countries.

Musa is scheduled to leave South Africa for London this evening on a two-day official visit.

He said that he will meet in London with British Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg, and opposition representatives. He added that his talks in London will focus on bilateral ties and on the discussion of Bosnian, Somalian, and Yemeni issues.

Al-Baz Explains Position on Peace to Israelis

NC1005110094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated the need to broaden the Middle East peace process to involve every track, particularly the Syrian-Israeli track. Dr. al-Baz pointed out that comprehensive and just peace will be achieved only if all these tracks are included.

Dr. al-Baz made these remarks during a meeting here today with a delegation of new heads of Israeli diplomatic missions to several countries, which is visiting Cairo. He stressed that Egypt is trying to overcome the obstacles obstructing the peace process, particularly along the Syrian-Israeli track. Dr. al-Baz explained to the delegation Egypt's position on various Arab, African, and international issues.

Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan said the Israeli diplomats wanted, before starting their new jobs abroad, to learn Egypt's views on the peace process in the region and the negotiations relating to this process. The ambassador noted that the delegation's visit to Egypt will last three days.

Israel Seeking To Improve Image in Egypt

NC0605203694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 13

[Report by 'Amr Nasif from Cairo]

[Text] For some time, Tel Aviv has anxiously been raising with Egyptian politicians an issue of considerable importance to it, that is, the picture the Egyptian opposition press draws of Israel and the Israeli personality.

The Zionist viewpoint can be summed up thus: The political line pursued by the Egyptian opposition in general, and by the Nasirists and Islamists in particular, is determined to tarnish the image of Israel and the Israelis in the eyes of Egyptians by pinning many dirty accusations on the Israelis to ruin Egypt's economic, social, and health relations with them. The consequences have gone beyond the Egyptian society to worldwide specialized research centers, which have tended recently to verify the charges made in Egypt against Israeli nationals. Some of these centers have approached official and nonofficial Egyptian sources, who confirmed some of these charges.

Making no effort to hide the negative impact this policy might have on the Israelis themselves in the long run, Tel Aviv has been pressing for invigorating the normalization process on the basis of new Israeli proposals. The major and most serious of these was a proposal to organize a series of intellectual meetings and debates involving two Egyptian and Israeli groups of researchers under 35 years of age. According to the proposal, the two groups would employ the outcome of these debates in studies and research which the mass media in both countries can publish to improve each side's image in the eyes of the public.

An Egyptian source has told AL-SAFIR that Cairo did not object to the Israeli proposal and that a debate involving 15 researchers of each side was indeed held some time ago under the auspices of an Egyptian center, which the source referred to by the letters "M.E". The Egyptian side to the debate was supervised by a person referred to by the letters "A.F." The source added that the debate ended in utter failure. Although Egypt was careful not to select any fanatic or anti-Israeli researchers, all observers noted that the Egyptian researchers deliberately insulted the Israelis so much that one of the latter remarked: We are not war criminals to be treated with such disdain.

The source added that Egypt made calculations before and after the debate. Available information later confirmed that the Israeli researchers had undergone three weeks of intensive training in gathering intelligence and that Egypt decided to suspend the debates.

Instructions were later issued to prepare a file on "Israeli criminal conduct in Egypt." Several security and other organizations were involved in the report, which confirmed that Israeli apparatuses were engaged in an exhaustive process to inflict harm on Egypt—harm that can go as far as sabotage.

The report recommended a number of measures to confront organized Israeli crimes in Egypt. It recorded that Israelis are behind 77 percent of crimes involving forgery and drug and money smuggling. The report emphasized a special recommendation by the Egyptian Central Bank that stringent measures be applied by banks and money changers in checking and authenticating the currencies Israeli tourists exchange in Egypt. The report cited several major crimes that involved Israelis in Egypt. The following were among these crimes:

- An eight-member Israeli network led by Gadi Ya'aqov was caught in possession of $80,000 last January. Investigations showed that the network was operating under the command of a former Israeli army general named Binyamin 'Ezer. The network members succeeded in smuggling large amounts of counterfeit money between September and January 1993 with the help of some collaborators.

-A network to smuggle counterfeit currencies has been caught. It operated under the command of Chaim Ben-Aharon, an employee in the security section of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

- A scheme to smuggle $10 million to Egypt through a network led by Chaim Eli'ezer with the assistance of former Israeli army officers, three tourist guides, and tour-bus drivers working for Eagle Tours was aborted in 1993.

- Case No. 318/1993, which involved Rufa'il Bitar, who was caught in possession of counterfeit sums worth $7,000; 5,000 pounds sterling; and 20,000 dinars.

- Case No. 517/1994 from Ismailia, a felony in which Shalom Mitan was caught trying to smuggle one kilogram of heroin and counterfeit $3,000 which he planned to deliver to a merchant in the jewelry market.

- Case No. 2187, in which 'Adli Avraham was caught trying to change counterfeit $5,000 at Misr Bank in the Mena House Hotel. Avraham was almost a permanent resident in Cairo, under the pretext of preparing a master's degree in pharaonic history. Criminology laboratory tests confirmed that these currencies were identical with those which Chaim Eli'ezer had tried to smuggle in terms of the material and method of counterfeiting.

- Case No. 397/1994, in which Frois Tekfu, Sahar Rosan, and the latter's girlfriend Violette Minshah tried to smuggle large amounts of counterfeit currencies.

- An attempt to smuggle large quantities of heroin in toothpaste tubes by Avraham Shalon, vice president of the Israeli Academic Center in Egypt, was aborted.

- An attempt by the assistant economic attache at the Israeli Embassy to smuggle heroin in the diplomatic pouch was aborted in January 1993.

- Several Israeli AIDS-infected women have been caught. Some of them confessed that it was their national duty to transfer AIDS to the largest number of Egyptians possible.

The report mentions many such cases, including a network that was caught by accident in the summer of 1993, when a boat carrying Israelis was involved in an accident. The passengers were rescued and taken to hospital, where tests showed that all the women passengers were AIDS carriers. Two of the passengers had been banned from entering Egypt, for being members of the AIDS club network uncovered in Egypt in the late 1980's. They confessed at that time that they transferred AIDS to three Egyptian young men, who tested HIV positive according to internist Sabbur.

It is appropriate to commend the vigilance of the Egyptian security authorities vis-a-vis the Zionist sabotage schemes. However, is it not equally appropriate to ask why Egypt has refrained from taking firm and decisive measures against the Israeli presence in Egypt? Moreover, what is the nature of the agreements signed between Egypt and Israel, by which Egypt contents itself with extraditing some Israeli saboteurs, or trying some of them in utter secrecy? If the solid security rule says that the maximum success in crime prevention does not exceed 40 percent, what is more likely to succeed is 60 percent of these sabotage operations. The people who pay the price for these operations are the citizens, who were insulted by Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali when he said two months ago "if it were not for Israel, Egypt would not have known the taste of bananas or apples." The country's economy as well is paying the price; Israel exhausts that economy and the government takes revenge from the public sector.

Opposition MP: State Ordered Dissident Killed

NC1005210494 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 10 (AFP)—A senior Egyptian opposition MP on Tuesday accused unnamed government officials of ordering the killing of a Muslim fundamentalist lawyer because he tried to negotiate an end to clashes between Islamic militants and the security forces.

Kamal Khalid, a lawyer and independent member of parliament, said 'Abd-al-Harith Madani died after having tried to give him proposals for ending the conflict between the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and security forces which has cost nearly 400 lives in the past two years.

"Certain circles in the security forces are trying to stir up" the violence, Khalid told a lawyers' union meeting in the centre of Cairo, called to protest over the alleged killing of Madani by security forces.

The Order of Cairo Lawyers said Monday that Madani, who defended the al-Jama'ah's spiritual leader, was tortured to death a week after he was arrested.

Madani was a leading member of the defence committee set up for al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) spiritual guide Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was sentenced to seven years in jail by the state security court last week. The al-Jama'ah has been waging a bloody two-year campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

In a message to Mubarak, Order of Cairo Lawyers President 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad said there were "circles in the heart of your government who do not want stability in Egypt."

The Cairo lawyers' statement said Madani was arrested on April 26 and taken to a secret destination. "Not even his family knew where he was. They only heard about his death on Friday."

The lawyers said they were "horrified" by Madani's death, describing it as "an act of aggression against all lawyers."

Security forces arrested Madani during a four-hour search of his office, in the presence of four colleagues.

The 40-year-old lawyer from Qina in northern [as received] Egypt was married with two daughters.

Writer Views Causes of 'Extremism,' 'Terrorism'

NC0605210694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 9

[Article by Salah-al-Din Hafiz]

[Excerpt] Despite the serious, negative effects that extremism, violence, and terrorism have left on our public life and inevitably on our private life, this violence and terrorism had one good effect, if one may say so.

The good thing was that the tragedy produced by extremism, terrorism, and violence has made everyone realize that the issue is not only the result of religious or ideological deviation or incitement by foreign countries and forces that do not like to see us enjoying stability and progress, but that the origin and roots of the problem have something to do with the social and economic situation in which we live and from which we suffer. We sometimes deny the existence of the problem and sometimes we do not read and interpret it correctly, claiming that everything is fine and nothing better could be done. But the bitter truth remains, does not disappear, and does not change in the eyes of those who really are afraid for the future of the country and the nation.

I say very humbly that we have frequently drawn attention to the fact that violence, extremism, and terrorism would not have broken out, grown strong, and spread had they not found the proper environment and fertile ground among the unemployed, the poor, the frustrated, the desperate, and people without hope who are ready to dismiss this society which did not provide them with work, housing, clothing, and hope for the future, as is necessary.

We have often attacked the inciters, provokers, and liars, claiming that extremism and terrorism are imported

commodities that have no basis in our society and we have pursued a policy of concealment and deception until one day we woke up to the sound of explosions and this terrifying bloody clash. We now follow the deterioration of the situation with concern.

At any rate, thank God that we have awakened after a long sleep, distractions, plays on words and slogans, and deception in interpretations and justifications to place our fingers on the cause of the disease. It is clear that the problem is due to the existing social and economic inequality that has created sharp divisions among the people, disturbed the structure of society that has been maintained over the ages, and produced abnormal conditions, values, and traditions that respect money more than intellect, sanctify wealth more than work, and exercise deception more than ethics. The result has been social division and economic disparity that have no logical basis. [passage omitted]

Debate Over Minorities Conference Reported

NC1005195394 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 5-11 May 94 p 2

[Report by Umaymah 'Abd-al-Latif: "Controversial Conference Moves to Cyprus"]

[Text] In a last-minute change, the organisers of a forthcoming conference on the ethnic and religious minorities of the Middle East decided to shift the parley to Cyprus after it triggered opposition from the bulk of Egyptian intellectuals—both Christian and Muslim.

"We have decided that we cannot work under pernicious conditions and make this conference a success," Sulayman Shafiq, a member of staff at the Ibn-Khuldun Centre organising the conference, told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY.

The conference, scheduled to take place between 12-14 May, first came under fire from the renowned political analyst and writer Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal for including on its agenda a discussion of the problems of Copts in Egypt.

Other intellectuals followed suit, and Pope Shanudah III of the Coptic Orthodox Church issued a statement in which he rejected the designation of Copts as a minority and insisted that they were part and parcel of the Egyptian nation.

"We have striven to hold this conference, which deals specifically with the Middle East and the Arab world, in Egypt in order to acknowledge its regional role and to challenge any misconceptions about domestic security," Shafiq said.

But, he added, organisers had to reconsider and decided to move the conference to "another country where freedom of expression does not come under severe attack".

Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, head of the Shura [Consultative] Council, was quoted on Monday as saying the state opposed the convening of the conference on Egyptian soil because Copts and Muslims make up one nation, share the same history and coexist.

But Shafiq denied that the organisers were aware of any government objection. "We have not been informed of any governmental opposition to holding the conference," Shafiq said.

Shafiq disclosed that even before the storm was triggered the organisers had considered a number of alternative host-countries. Cyprus was a strong option and Lebanon also offered to play host.

"We chose Egypt because we wanted to challenge the image that is being projected of Egypt as an unsafe country," he said. "But it seems that intellectual terrorism is much more powerful than armed terrorism."

State Councellor Sulayman Qiladah thinks the decision to move the conference reflects the success of Egyptian public opinion in rejecting a gathering that includes on its agenda the possibility of international interference in the region under the guise of protecting minority rights.

"This is a major achievement of the unified stand made by all Egyptians who refused to discuss a topic that should only be discussed within an Egyptian framework," he said. "The good thing about this conference is that it showed how strong our national unity could be at times of crisis."

Shafiq said the Egyptian delegation to the conference will be made up of 20 prominent personalities, including Dr Mahmud Hafiq, head of the Shura Council's services committee, Prof. Mahmud al-Juhari, president of Hilwan University, Jihad 'Udah a political analyst, and seven Coptic figures led by Dr Wasim al-Sisi.

A discussion of Coptic "problems" is still on the agenda but Shafiq was not sure whether it would actually take place.

Fahmi Huwaydi, a writer on Islamic issues who turned down an invitation to attend the conference, said that shifting the conference from Cairo to Cyprus will not solve the complicated problems of Middle Eastern minorities.

"The conference remains a defence of the minorities' cause more than a serious and true attempt to put an end to their grievances and problems," he said. "The situation of the minorities is far too complicated to be discussed through such a modest institution as the Ibn-Khuldun Centre."

Another writer on Islamic affairs, president of al-Zaqaziq University Dr Muhammad 'Imarah, expressed dissatisfaction with the removal of the conference from Egyptian territory. He said that certain lines should not be crossed or even approached by research centres and

this conference seems to have gone far beyond these lines. It was time, he said, that it was stopped.

"Now it is not, as some would claim, the freedom of expression and thought we should protect; it is a whole nation that should be protected, before they divide it into minorities and majorities and produce a climate ripe for sectarian strife," 'Imarah said.

Huwaydi pointed out that the topic was first studied in the '70s by the Arabic Studies Centre of which Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim, the chairman of the Ibn-Khuldun Centre, was also a member.

"This centre had its effective presence in the Arab world at the time and had no connections with any foreign associations—which could cast doubts on the credibility of any institution."

A side-result of the controversy was the resignation of Jamal Badawi, editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-WAFD, after Wafd Party Chairman Fu'ad Saraj-al-Din gave last minute orders to lift Haykal's article lambasting the conference.

Shadin Shihab reports, however, that Badawi appears ready to withdraw his resignation. "The problem between Badawi and Fu'ad Pasha has been resolved and I am very optimistic that Badawi will resume the functions of his post very soon," Yasin Saraj-al-Din, leading Wafd member and brother to the party leader, told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY. He said that if Badawi contributed his weekly article for publication, "then we must conclude that the problem has dissolved into thin air". Badawi's name continues to appear on the newspaper's masthead despite the reported resignation.

Yasin Saraj-al-Din explained that Badawi had given him, and not Fu'ad Saraj-al-Din, his letter of resignation which was to be passed on to the party leader. "I am the closest person to both of them and Badawi found it too embarrassing because of his great respect for the Pasha," Saraj-al-Din said. "I never gave the letter to the Pasha. It is still in my pocket. I decided to resolve the dispute and not to widen it further."

Badawi was not available for comment.

Finance Minister Outlines 1994-95 Draft Budget

NC1005192394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz delivered a statement on the state's draft general budget for the fiscal year 1994-95 at the People's Assembly at noon today.

He said the draft budget is based on several principles, foremost of which is the continuation of the fiscal policies leading to a gradual decrease in the state's general budget deficit and the focus on social issues.

The plan also pays attention to enhancing the economic dimension through an integrated group of investment, monetary, credit, and fiscal policies that seek to develop the state's revenues, secure the necessary investment for development and production, enhance the infrastructure, encourage the private sector, and take care of production, as well as taking into consideration current world economic changes.

He said that the total expenditure in the draft budget of the year 1994-95 amounts to approximately 70.541 billion pounds against 65.313 billion pounds in the 1993-94 budget.

The total revenue is 61.977 billion pounds against 56.33 billion pounds last year. Thus the budget's total deficit is approximately 8.564 billion pounds against 8.983 billion in the 1993-94 budget.

He added that financing through local and foreign loans amounts to about 8.75 billion pounds and thus the net deficit in the new budget amounts to approximately 488.4 million pounds against 1.338 billion in the year 1993-94.

Al-Razzaz said in his statement that the general taxes are estimated at 16.244 billion pounds representing 44 percent of the state's total revenue.

He noted that payment of the state loans on time is a paramount goal of our fiscal policy. Therefore, each fiscal year assumes its own share of the debt service. The draft budget allocates 21.146 billion pounds to meet the interest and installments of the state's local and foreign loans. He said the interest of these loans amounts to approximately 17.74 billion pounds, of which only 4.1 billion is foreign loans and the rest local loans.

The value of local and foreign installments due in 1994-95 is about 4.271 billion pounds, of which 2.33 billion are foreign loan installments.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Yemen's Salih in Mediation Bid

LD1005120594 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1129 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 10 May, (JANA-Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—In continuation of the efforts made by the great leader of the al-Fatih revolution to mediate between the parties to the crisis in Yemen, a telephone call was made between the brother leader of the revolution and brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in Yemen, in an attempt to tackle the tense situation and to spare the blood of brothers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses World Islamic Popular Command

LD0805173894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 7 May 94

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the World Islamic Popular Command in Tripoli on 7 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God: First, I welcome you warmly in your country, among your kinfolk, given that Islamic homes are homes for all Muslims. [passage omitted]

We know that the reason behind the founding of the World Islamic Popular Command [WIPC] is the bad situation of the Islamic nation due to the infringements of the enemy of this nation, its greed, and its interference. This command was established to face up to this bad situation, to try to save the nation from the situation in which it finds itself. The real reason that brought us together and made us found the WIPC was, in fact, what happened to Libya. This is just an example that justifies the correctness of our theories, the fact that the nation is facing danger, infringement, and aggression. [passage omitted]

Western interventions and attempts to impose negotiations and various deals are meant to secure and entrench a platform for the realization of the plan against the Islamic nation. The effort made by America, for instance, in what is called a peace process, ensuring the success of negotiations, removing obstacles between Palestinians and Israelis and the Arabs and Israelis do not represent American eagerness to bring about peace. America is not keen to save the lives of the Arabs and Muslims. America is keen to ensure the success of its imperialist scheme, and it is paving the way for this scheme by its interventions. We know that this is the reality. If the rulers of the Islamic-Arab nation are trying to fool the masses and tell them the lie that this is a peace process, we are not taken in by this lie. America is not eager for peace in the Middle East. Since when has America been keen about peace? America is the real enemy of peace. Since when has America been eager about the right or liberties of peoples? America is the real enemy of peoples, the real enemy of freedom. [passage omitted]

Against whom is America continuing to arm itself? Against Hungary, against Lithuania? Against which small state still existing? Never. America made a statement through its ambassador in Italy. He said: The confrontation is now finished with communism, and the front line was Berlin. Now starts confrontation with the Islamic world, so that the latter will have the same fate as the communist world. The front line is now Rome. We return to this official statement made by the American ambassador in Rome. This is a grave warning that will turn into a military, economic, and political action. America is the one that enabled the Jews to occupy Jerusalem and turn it into an eternal capital for the Jewish state. America will enable them—and these words are for history—to occupy Mecca and Medina. It will enable them to reach the oil wells in the Gulf. America cannot leave the income from Mecca and Medina, the annual material income from the pilgrims, a large tourism income, thousands of billions every year, it cannot leave it for the Arabs, and the oil fields cannot be left for the Arabs or Muslims. [passage omitted]

We want to embarrass them, to embarrass this false diplomacy in the Islamic world, this submission, this shameful prostration. We say frankly: We are facing a Christian-Jewish alliance. We did not create it, they did. We just talk about it. They have now launched a religious war. No Arab or Islamic ruler in all the Islamic world would dare say that we are facing a religious war because they are hypocrites, showing the opposite of what they think. [passage omitted]

Regrettably, with the exception of just a few, the Arab and Islamic states generally are paving the way for the victory of the Christians and Jews over Muslims. We spoke about the reason that made Islamic groups resort to violence. These groups say they are terrorists, and they do not see terrorism with the same eyes as others because this term appeared in the Koran: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the enemies of God and your enemies. We are applying, practicing terror. God said to have the strength to instill terror into all these enemies. What is the reason behind the Islamic groups practicing terrorism? We have found a justification in prostration, the shameful submission of the official regimes in the Arab and Islamic world before the enemies of the nation. [passage omitted]

I personally do not support any Islamic movement seeking power. The question is controlling the streets, not securing power. When we control the streets and mobilize the streets, then the veto will be in the hands of the Islamic masses in the streets. When the American secretary of state comes to visit us, we make people in the streets move. Roads will be closed down, airports will be shut, and no one will offer him even a glass of water. He will then return home ashamed. If you are rulers, then you would welcome him and offer him all the signs of honor and hospitality. [passage omitted]

Once, I stopped over in Paris when coming from Yugoslavia. [words indistinct] in Paris, and I was due to meet the French president. I arrived at the Elysee from the hotel where I was residing with difficulties because of the Jews. They tried to prevent me from reaching the French president. They closed all the streets and put up barricades. [passage omitted]

They sprinkled metal spikes that puncture car tires in the street in front of my motorcade. Have you ever seen a Muslim doing this to an Israeli? An Arab doing it to an Israeli? This has happened to me. I, myself, am a witness. They tried to destroy my car. There was a violent clash

with the police. They brought a large number of police to enable me to arrive at the Elysee with difficulty. [passage omitted]

If we direct our attention to power, I am against the Islamic movements that contend with the rulers for power, because they would be compelled to become agents. As we said in this place years ago, however, we do not want power. We want the Islamic street. We want the Islamic street to rise. It would be wrong to rise in the violence that we have seen, because this is blind violence that, in fact, is out of place.

It is illogical when Egyptian Muslim terrorists fight some Egyptians in the street and leave 'Um Rashrash under occupation. It would have been more appropriate for them to liberate 'Um Rashrash, which separated the Arab and Islamic worlds, broke the back of the nation, and severed the pilgrimage route. Who can cross from Egypt to Jordan or from Jordan to Egypt? They have 'Um Rashrash, which the Israelis call Eilat, in front of them. The Egyptian jihad should be directed toward liberating 'Um Rashrash and not for killing innocent people. What happened when they killed the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly? A new People's Assembly speaker was elected. When they killed the president of Egypt himself, another president was elected. [passage omitted]

In fact, this is a blind orientation. We only benefit from it to express anger in the Islamic street against the surrender of the official Islamic regime before the crusaders and against abandoning the nation. This is the only benefit from it. This is a suicidal act that brings no results. It is a suicidal act that is similar to a person who protests against something and openly sets fire to himself in the street in front of the people, throws himself from a high place, throws himself in the sea, or shoots himself to publicize his protest against something. I have done this in protest against so-and-so issue, as Buddhists and Hindus do. We interpret this in the following way: It is a suicidal act that leads to no results, because the person who commits suicide would be the only person to commit suicide.

This is a suicide attack, expressing dissatisfaction with what is going on. Islam would never succeed with the suicide attacks we witness in Egypt and Algeria. These would not lead to the success of Islam and will not awaken the Muslim nation. On the contrary, these suicide attacks will lead to sedition, civil war, and to the fall of Islam and national unity. Islam itself will be finished. Not all the people who would like to embrace Islam would like to embrace terrorism at the same time. The vast majority embrace Islam because it is Islam.

If embracing Islam becomes linked to the bomb, the gun, and underground action, people will turn away from Islam. It is a serious matter. Islam is becoming associated with suicide. It is either: You join me within this suicide group, or you are not a Muslim and are an infidel and we will kill you. This is what propaganda is making of Islam. Islam is said to consist of terrorist acts, for instance, accepting suicide attacks, and killing those who do not belong to the suicide groups. All this will keep people away from Islam. The majority will say: We do not want Islam with a bomb and a gun.

The battle is not one of bombs and guns; if only it was so. If the battle with the United States was a battle of guns, we would definitely defeat the United States. The United States is a terrorist power and not an occupation power. We would then defeat it when we became fearless of terrorism. The United States is only a terrorist power, and it could not win with other means. The United States was defeated in Vietnam by the rifle. Its planes were defeated and destroyed when it attacked Libya, a small country. It could not occupy Iraq. Its soldiers were worried to enter al-Ahwaz, al-Ahwar, and the marshes. [sentence as heard] The United States was defeated in Somalia's forests by Somali gun and stones. It fears revolutionary Korea. If only the battle was one of guns, the United States would definitely be defeated. The United States is a winner, not because of the bomb or the machine gun. No, it is because it feels it is psychologically strong. It feels strong on another plane: on an economic, social, and political plane.

Therefore, we need a movement to motivate the nation politically, socially, and economically. We need to restore ethics and authenticity.

We can close our streets without a gun, and not a single Israeli would be allowed to enter Arab land. Even the countries who recognize Israel could not have diplomatic ties with us, because if we are in control of our streets, the ambassador would not be able to walk in our streets. There would be no room for him. He would not come in the first place if he knew the streets were closed, even if the governments would recognize him.

We want a full mobilization of the nation before thinking of guns. We will not call for the killing of the Israelis who have been touring and trampling down Arab soil these last days and weeks.

We do not call for their killing. We call for their rejection and the closure of our streets to them so that governments are forced not to receive Jews again or assume the responsibility for their safety, food, and drink, which are no longer guaranteed.

For your information, in Libya there is legislation issued by the Libyan people within the Basic People's Congresses on the implementation of the Islamic law. All the laws in Libya are compatible now with Islamic law. This is a step forward. Yes, we should put pressure throughout other Islamic and Arab countries to implement Islamic law. You all know about the air embargo against Libya and the attempts to freeze Libyan assets abroad and to force countries to reduce their diplomatic representation in Libya, but the majority of countries did not respond to these attempts because they had interests in Libya.

A group of Libyan pilgrims have gone to Mecca by a Libyan plane in the past, maybe last year or the year before, to perform pilgrimage, but they were intercepted in the air and forbidden to land in accordance with the air embargo issued by the United States, Britain, and France. The pilgrims found that this decision, issued by these Christian countries, applied to Mecca and Medina. They were shocked and extremely outraged and swore by God to go to occupied Jerusalem—as Mecca has become like Jerusalem—in order to announce to the Muslim nation that Mecca has become subjected to the will of the United States, France, and Britain.

They then returned and travelled by rented cars to Egypt from an airport near the artificial Egyptian-Libyan borders. From Egypt they hired the services of a travel agency in the occupied territories to take them to Jerusalem. The Israeli tourism minister and his entourage tried to consider this as an initiative from the Libyans to hold contacts with the Israelis, but they were shocked and disappointed when the Libyan pilgrims announced that they had come to announce that Jerusalem is occupied and should be liberated and that they had come to Muslim Jerusalem in response to our rejection from Mecca .

The Israelis demanded a speedy departure of the Libyan pilgrims from the Aqsa Mosque because their presence constituted a threat. Their statements were inciting to the Muslims in the occupied territory and outside and had also exposed the difficult situation of holy Mecca. Consequently, all the parties that sought to cover themselves exerted pressure on the Libyan pilgrims in order to make them depart quickly. They actually asked them to leave.

This year we were expecting the Arab countries responsible for Mecca and Medina and the countries that lie between Libya and Mecca to disregard the embargo on the route that leads to Mecca. We were expecting them to say: The Libyans are free if they can fly from their country. We open the skies before them and open Mecca before them and would not ask them to have permission from the Security Council before entering Mecca nor deny them permission to fly through our skies to Mecca without permission from the Security Council.

The entire world knows what the Security Council is; the Security Council is America, Britain, and France. How can we ask permission for pilgrimage from Christians? This is blasphemy that is not allowed and is rejected.

The Libyan pilgrims were obliged this year to travel to Mecca on the backs of camels. I beg you to inform all peoples of the Islamic nation of this and to disseminate the news through all of the Muslim information media so that the Islamic world will know the difficult situation in Mecca and the deteriorated conditions in which the Islamic and Arab peoples are living. [passage omitted]

You have to think of freeing your will so that Mecca is subjected to Christian domination before thinking of pilgrimage. I believe and I am convinced that this pilgrimage will not be accepted by God ever. It is blind imitation and tourism, and it helps improve Saudi Arabia's income only. This is a pilgrimage I attack, and I consider it as a pre-Islamic ritual, [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

I believe that the aim of the Libyan pilgrims, who have left on camel back and whose caravan set off yesterday or today, is to expose the shameful situation in which we and those in God's house and the tomb of God's messenger are in. We want to show for example that Sudan banned aircraft because it implements the resolutions of Christian states. Egypt, for instance, banned aircraft because it implements the resolutions of Christian states, and Saudi Arabia banned pilgrims because it implements the resolutions of Christian states. Even Libya, if it does not have the courage to launch its aircraft, is cowardly and implements the resolutions of the Christian states. The aim, then, is to show them the trouble imposed by America, Britain, and France on Muslims, on a Muslim people. Let the Islamic nation watch women, children, men, and old people who want to perform real pilgrimage and who cannot go by air and sea. Their private cars cannot get them to Mecca, and they cannot hire cars to go to Mecca. So they went by camels, which was the means available. [passage omitted]

We challenge Egyptian Islamic extremist groups to only open up the land route to pilgrimage via 'Um Rashrash. Those groups are, of course, fighting the Egyptian Government, so if they were to carry out this act, it would definitely not be blamed on the Egyptian Government because the latter itself is at war with those groups.

So, if these groups go and fight to liberate 'Um Rashrash, which is Eilat, do you think it would affect the peace process between Egypt and Israel, or will it be blamed on the Egyptian Government? Never, ever, because as I said, the Egyptian Government itself is in a state of war with these groups.

Yes, we challenge the Afghan mojahedin, the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front militants, the Islamic movement in Sudan. We challenge them all to go and open up the land route to the pilgrimage so that the nation can be territorially united again. The nation's back is broken. The Israelis have stretched their power from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, so no crossing is allowed.

Of course, this meeting is an emergency meeting. It coincides with the pilgrimage season, because pilgrimage is in a critical situation.

I wish our brother and friend Fahd was not a political leader of a political state. Saudi Arabia should become like the Vatican, especially after he declared himself the custodian of the two holy mosques and not a king. He is officially called Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. When he gets this religious status, he will then become absolved from the UN Security Council and U.S. domination and so on. If Saudi Arabia wants to serve God's house, it should change into a state like the Vatican. It should withdraw from the political

arena and remain a respected religious state. We then would respect our Saudi brothers and hold great esteem for them as the sponsors, servants, and guardians of God's house—provided they cancelled the army, the police, their political identity, and their diplomatic passports and remained a state concerned only with the holy places and living off pilgrimage income.

This is the right status, which should, as of now, be raised to the Muslim nation and in the Muslim world. We are saying so because we were very affected by the nonexistence of such a status. We might have news today, tomorrow, or after tomorrow on some of our women or men pilgrims dying on their way to Mecca on camels. We do not know how many of those pilgrims, who went in their hundreds, will come back.

Thus, we have been and will continue to be affected as long as the pilgrimage is in such a condition. This is not an attack on Saudi Arabia at all. It is to help our brothers in Saudi Arabia because they are incapable of resisting America. The Islamic nation should stand by the Saudis to enable them to resist America.

Once, after Iraq entered Kuwait, I telephoned King Fahd and asked him if it was true that America was entering Saudi Arabia. I said that we could—on the Arab and Islamic level—interfere and get Iraq's army out and regain Kuwait. Fahd told me that America was a superpower, and who would stop it if it entered Saudi Arabia. If the situation is like that, therefore, America's resolutions will be applicable even in Mecca, because America is a superpower. Therefore, the Islamic world should embrace, support, and strengthen Saudi Arabia so it can say no to America. These are reasonable statements.

Our brothers in Saudi Arabia might not be able to oppose America, because America is a superpower. Not every one of us can oppose America. However, we, at least, say no, even if we die. If our brothers in Saudi Arabia are unable to stand up against America's resolution, which is currently applicable in Mecca, barring Libyan or even Iraqi pilgrims from the town, in this case, we should stand by our brothers in Saudi Arabia to strengthen their position in order to say no to America and to give the Americans a sore eye.

Brothers, Mecca should never be part of a political state because this political state might go to war with another country. How would this other country's president travel to Mecca to perform pilgrimage? Iraq was in a state of war with Saudi Arabia. Could the Iraqi president travel to Mecca to perform pilgrimage? They would have arrested him because his country was in a state of war. He would be respected and would not be arrested if Mecca did not have a political status. [passage omitted]

We know that American troops are present in Saudi Arabia, and the reason is a fear of Iraqi invasion of Saudi Arabia following its occupation of Kuwait. Undoubtedly, Mecca is under American protection.

This talk should not be misinterpreted, saying that al-Qadhdhafi has attacked Al Sa'ud and Saudi Arabia. Not at all; we are not attacking Saudi Arabia. I do not believe in media attacks or similar nonsense because it does not lead to anything. On the contrary, I do sympathize with the Saudis and see them in a situation not to be envied. We urge the Islamic nation to stand by them in order to give the Americans a sore eye, and we urge Saudi Arabia, if it wants to be responsible for Mecca, to become a religious state only. [passage omitted]

If Saudi Arabia wants to remain a political state, it has to relinquish Mecca and Medina to the Islamic Conference Organization to run them. Actually, this is what we have been demanding constantly.

Due to Mecca's bad and difficult condition, this emergency meeting of the general secretariat of the WIPC has been held. Now, we can try and make Libyan pilgrims request Sudan's permission to let a Libyan airplane cross Sudan's airspace and head for Mecca. Let us see what Sudan would say. If it said to get permission from the Security Council, then Sudan and the way to Mecca would be controlled by Christian countries. Or if Egypt did.

If Sudan gave permission and said that this plane could go to Mecca and said: I am not interested in how the plane gets out of Libya. That is Libya's responsibility. If you want to cross our airspace, then do so, as long as you are going to Hajj. After arriving in Saudi Arabia, let us see what Saudi Arabia would say. Would they say: Get permission from the Security Council in order to enter Mecca?

Do we enter Mecca with America's permission? Never! [passage omitted]

Even international communism and all communists throughout the world thought that communism was invincible and that planet Earth would be red. We said: No, there is something wrong with this theory. We said that these peoples would not continue to be subjected to the communist parties—though we have a common denominator, which is the struggle against imperialism. Communism was a deterrent to America. America has no morals. It fears. It was afraid of Brezhnev and Khrushchev. When America's masters went way, it appeared naked and without morals before the world—roaring, sending its troops everywhere, interfering in everything, deciding whatever it wished, stumbling over human rights and sovereignty—because it used to be afraid. America has no morals. The present U.S. President Clinton—though he is a man of peace, young, etc. and has no bad past record and was against the Vietnam war—he himself is a victim of American imperialism and the CIA. He is afraid for himself. Morals make a head of state. American intelligence has no morals and is an arch enemy of all the world and wants to give itself a licence to violate the whole world. [passage omitted]

Clinton is afraid of the CIA. He is a victim of the CIA. He is afraid because U.S. establishments have no morals.

They are hellish, as are the big multinational syndicates. The CIA and the White House are all bugged. Clinton is living in hell. The head of state has no morals. America has no morals. The West has no morals and hates the Islamic world. The West said: We do not recognize Mohammad. We Muslims recognize Jesus. Westerners consider Mohammad a liar and a crook. [passage omitted]

America has abandoned, when its interests were at stake, its best agents. Not its friends, because America has no friends. It has either an enemy or an agent. America has no friend at all. You will either be its agent or its enemy. America abandoned its best agents when its interests were at stake.

The West has decided on the nonexistence of an Islamic state in Europe, and they are going to eliminate Bosnia-Herzegovina, and then Albania. Any Islamic pocket will be eliminated in your time, and you will still be alive, God willing. You will be alive, God willing, and you will regrettably see the achievement of this bad thing.

We, in return, will not accept a Jewish state in the Islamic world. They eliminate pockets, and we eliminate pockets. Let it be so. What is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina—and what will happen to Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, and others—will take place in Palestine. We eliminate pockets, and they eliminate pockets. We will accept this. They decided that. They decided to eliminate Islamic pockets in Europe. All Christian states from Moscow to Washington decided not to allow Muslims to have a foot of land in Europe. Europe is Christian. From Moscow to Washington it is all Christian. As for you, the Arabs and Muslims, however, they want you to accept a racist Jewish state that is armed with nuclear weapons—with support from the crusading West—inside your land, and they want you to bow before it.

Regrettably, even Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said yesterday, when he spoke during the farce that took place in Cairo: We wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land. You make them leaders and make them heirs. This [Koranic] verse was said about Jews. He is stressing that we have surrendered to Jews, and they have become leaders and heirs. This is the meaning. It means: I have come to you to share and to surrender, and this is a whole Arab column present with me. This is an emphasis of this verse: God was gracious to Jews and made them our leaders and heirs of Palestine and other places, and all we got was the cursed city that is called Jericho and the miserable Gaza.

The fact that Abu-'Ammar opened his speech with this verse means that the latter was achieved. Jews have become leaders, and God made them heirs.

What link do the Arab states that attended this ceremony in Cairo have with the ceremony and Palestine? I challenge them. The states that did not fight and that have no borders with Palestine, why do they put their nose in this dust and sand. Who has blamed them? They are weak states and should stay within their borders. They are not asked to liberate the occupied territories or participate in a liberation. Why then do they participate in this scandal?

This is also a recognition of Israel. All those who attended the ceremony in Cairo have recognized Israel. Who are they kidding? This is an official recognition of Israel. Any state that attended the ceremony shook hands with Peres. What is the name of the prime minister of the enemy? Yitzhaq Rabin. They all shook hands with him, and it is an announcement of the recognition of the Jewish state by the Arab states. [passage omitted]

Some people have not attended these meetings. Ghannouchi, for instance, is a member of the WIPC, which is not the Libyan leadership. He is not present now, however, and has not been able to attend. He was not even invited. The reason for this is that he fell into a dispute with the Tunisian Government. Consequently, Tunisia tells us: Brothers, it is not acceptable for somebody who is wanted over a political matter and is wanted for trial in Tunisia to come and visit Libya because, in return, it is not acceptable that somebody who is wanted in Libya is treated with deference or (?visits) Tunisia.

This is logical. Consequently, he was not invited. We wished that there would not be a difference between Ghannouchi and the Tunisian Government and that he would not let himself get into a dispute to the point where he is banned from staying in Tunisia or Libya. We wish that the action would remain peaceful, democratic, and political, and hope to make people aware, which is a permitted action. Now there is an accusation that there is a coup action, however, violence that is outside legality, constitutionality, and laws.

What is striking in this context is that Britain gave Ghannouchi political asylum. I have watched the development of ties between Tunisia and Britain since the latter gave Ghannouchi political asylum. Ties have improved, and recently there were delegations, aid, loans, and a development in ties between Tunisia and Britain. That is wonderful.

Let us assume, however, that Libya gave Ghannouchi political asylum. What would the Tunisian Government's position be toward Libya. It would be different. It could sever ties. We did not allow him to come in peace to a session of the WIPC out of consideration for the position of our brothers in Tunisia who want to put him on trial. Why did Tunisia not cut ties with Britain? That is the problem, the problem of Arabs, of Muslims. They overlook the wrongdoing of the enemy, their interference, and humiliations.

When Algeria was under Ali Kafi's rule, I said this from this position—or maybe somewhere else—that I could bring reconciliation between the Islamic Salvation Front and the Algerian Government because they were my friends. I prayed with them, knew them, and had debates

with them. They could accept some talk from me on opening dialogue with the Algerian Government and setting aside the fighting.

The Algerian Government under Ali Kafi issued a statement against al-Qadhdhafi. It spoke about interference and so on, whereas delegations from European countries were going to Algeria to check up on prisoners and human rights. There were no objections about them because they were coming from colonialist Christian countries. See what a system we have!

How could Britain give political asylum to Ghannouchi. Ghannouchi was more entitled to being given asylum by Arab states and not Britain. Britain, in that case, took a position in opposition to the Tunisian regime. Tunisia should have severed ties with Britain and not have had ties improve. If Ghannouchi's presence in the country where he is now is not considered wrong, then the WIPC has not done its duty. It did not issue an invitation to Ghannouchi—if only to attend one day of this session of which he is a member.

Britain gave him permanent residence and political asylum, and its ties with Tunisia have improved! What we are saying is in Tunisia's defense. We are saying this for Tunisia against Britain because it is clear that our brothers in Tunisia cannot tell Britain these things. We can say it on their behalf and in defense of Saudi Arabia because it cannot say these things to the Islamic world or to America. I can say them on its behalf because of my position, as head of the WIPC. If I were president of the Libyan state, I would not say them.

The BBC is known to be part of the British Government. The Arabic service there is part of British intelligence. It is known that it was established during World War II to counter Berlin. [passage omitted]

This radio, for example, had an interview with a Saudi named Binladin, who fled Saudi Arabia. He said his son had been detained in Saudi Arabia to pressure him to return to the kingdom. He gave an interview to this radio to attack our brothers in Saudi Arabia. Ties between Saudi Arabia and Britain were not cut.

Let us assume that Binladin went to a Libyan broadcast and gave the interview. Ties between Libya and Saudi Arabia would inevitably be cut the following day. Look at our situation. Those who come from the West are as though they have come from God. We accept them. Our brothers, however, are lying in wait. During Ali Kafi's reign, no objections were raised at interference by France and the West in Algeria's internal affairs or at the sending of inspection committees. They objected to one word I said here in Algeria's interest.

Binladin made statements to the BBC and nothing happened to ties. [passage omitted]

We must work to ensure the presence of the WIPC at international events at the United Nations.

We must make our voice heard to the whole world, and we must work for, call for, the convening of an urgent Islamic summit to tackle the Mecca situation and the road to Mecca. It does not matter that the Libyan people are being besieged, starved, even fought, and if it dies on its feet, or [this is happening to] the Iraqi people or any other people, the issue in question is that of Mecca.

We are not asking our Arab brothers, whether in Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, or Jordan, to stand on our side against America so that the Libyan assets may be unfrozen, or the air embargo, the boycott, and the siege lifted. No, not at all. We are not asking them for this. We want to argue with them about the road to Mecca and the pilgrimage to Mecca, Mecca itself. The Libyan people has the right to address itself to the Islamic nation and show that it has set off on foot and by camel from Libya to Mecca.

Mecca and the road to Mecca are in an intolerable situation. They allow camels in but they do not allow [Libyan] airliners because the resolution [on the embargo] made by America, Britain, and France does not mention camels and donkeys, and therefore, Libyan pilgrimages have set off by camel and donkey because the latter are not mentioned in the resolution. If they were mentioned in the resolution then the Arabs would have opposed the passage of donkeys and camels from Libya to Mecca. I am sure of this. There is on the part of Arab rulers a blind obedience to America and Britain and disobedience to God. I wish only part of the rulers' obedience to America was obedience to Almighty God! They are literally bound by America's orders, and they are not bound by a single word from the Koran.

To conclude, if we want to undertake an historic deed for the Islamic nation in confronting the enemy, we should not begin with the rifle, the gun, and the bomb as they are now doing in Egypt and Algeria. This is wrong. No. We must first engage in a cultural revolution. we must return to our authenticity, our origin, our roots. So long as they do not recognize Muhammad as a prophet, then why should we use the calendar based on the history of Jesus? There is no need for Jesus. This has been abolished, dropped definitively in Libya [where a calendar based on the birth and death of the prophet is in use]. If you want a calendar based on birth, then it is Muhammad's birthday; if you want a calendar based on death, then it is the passing of Muhammad. Muhammad is more important than Jesus because he is the last prophet who, after his birth and death the direct link between heaven and earth was severed. We have not heard a single word from heaven since. [passage omitted] May God never bring about understanding between us, the Christians and the Jews until doomsday! Why should we come to an understanding? Who said that we must? Who said this? Barricades separate us from them until doomsday. This is eternal enmity. God has decided so. It is they who do not recognize our prophet, our religion, language, and existence, and it is they who said that confrontation has ended with communism and that it will begin with Islam.

They have started this. Why this eagerness to have relations with them in the West, as if they were a ladder to God? If lack of relations with the West means no survival for us, then may God take away our lives; may we die in 24 hours if our life under the sun and on earth depends on relations with the West. May we die immediately, rather than have relations with the West in this shameful manner. [applause] [passage omitted]

God willing, we have set off, step by step on the 1,000 mile journey toward the objective; unspecified, and the first giant step is the founding of this WIPC. Our struggle and jihad continue, and we pray for God's help. Peace and mercy of God be upon you. [applause]

Speaker Praises Iran, Urges Closer Parliamentary Ties

LD0905205994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The speaker of the Libyan Parliament described Iran's policy of defending the rights of Muslims and Islamic values as independent and a source of pride for the world of Islam.

At a meeting in Tripoli with our country's ambassador, which was for the purpose of handing over a written message from Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, the Libyan parliamentary speaker said: The free will and resistance of Islamic Iran in dealing with the problems of the world of Islam, and her defense of Islamic values, raise the morale of Muslim peoples in tackling problems.

At the meeting, our country's ambassador outlined the common viewpoints of Iran and Libya on important global issues. He called for more activity by the two countries' parliamentary friendship groups.

Also a written message from Nateq-Nuri about the painful and dangerous conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina was handed to Nabih Birri, the speaker of the Lebanese National Assembly.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, our country's ambassador in Beirut told reporters on Monday, after delivering the message, that he had discussed ways of cooperation and coordination between parliaments of Islamic countries in the defense of the innocent and oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to bring to an end to the massacre of that Muslim nation.

Our country's ambassador added: The Gaza-Jericho agreement is, in fact, a security agreement, which is aimed at 'Arafat's police crushing the Intifadah and fighting the Palestinian nation.

Islamic People's Command Issues Communique

LD0805181694 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Maa [May] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The emergency meeting of the general secretariat of the International Islamic People's Command, held on 5-7th instant under the banner "Enabling Muslims To Defend Their Holy Places", concluded its proceedings last night in Tripoli.

The secretariat issued a communique at the end of the meeting asserting that the meeting was held at the darkest time in the history of Muslims as crusader tyranny and encroachment affected all affairs of Muslims.

The secretariat pointed out that this encroachment by Western crusaders on Muslims and their holy shrines went as far as controlling their religious practice and tutelage over their holy places like Mecca and Medina and setting conditions on Muslims in the fulfilment of their religious obligations.

The secretariat cited in this respect the ban imposed on the Libyan Arab pilgrims preventing them from travelling to the holy places.

The secretariat urged all Muslims, as individuals, groups and governments, to shoulder their responsibility regarding this encroachment and onslaught on Muslim holy shrines and intervention in their worshipping matters.

The secretariat stressed the need for Muslims to stand against the resolutions of the so called Security Council which follows a double standard policy and directs one humiliation after another against Muslims.

The communique called for issuing clearly the Islamic legal view on the intervention of a non Muslim side in the Muslims' religious affairs and embargo against them and to convey this ruling to all non-governmental and official organisations and institutions in the Muslim world, international organisations and human rights institutions.

JANA Says U.S. 'Number One Terrorist State'

LD1005160794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 May 94

Tripoli, 10 May (JANA)—JANA's international affairs editor has asserted that the facts have been reaffirming day in and day out that the United States is the number one terrorist state in the world and the most serious threat to world security and peace.

The editor added that America does not want to see peoples free; it accuses sovereign countries of terrorism just because these countries are not under any foreign influence.

He affirmed that the countries which America has accused of terrorism are the only free states in the world. That is why these states have been facing U.S. terrorism [words indistinct] for no other reason than the fact that they have rejected foreign influence and refused foreign political dictation.

The editor went to say that America is an anti-peace and tyrannical power. It is behind the destruction and the havoc in the world by creating and fuelling wars and conflicts and the acquisition of biological weapons of mass destruction which are a threat to the world as a whole. It is also the source of morbid diseases facing the world today, like AIDS, through its CIA-run laboratories.

The editor affirmed that America is exposed before all peoples as a state which has been practising state terrorism, supporting terrorism, and giving refuge to terrorists. It is no longer possible to fool anyone with American preaching about terrorism and peace. America is the leader of terrorism and the number one enemy of peace.

Silence From Saudi Arabia Questioned After UK Actions

LD0805143394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Through its Arabic service, which is controlled by British intelligence, London radio has interviewed the wife of the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari, a prominent member of the human rights committee in Saudi Arabia, who now lives in Britain. Mas'ari's wife said in the interview that she and her family are being harassed by the Saudi authorities and that the latter arrested three of her husband's brothers.

Commenting on this, JANA's Arab affairs editor says: For the second time in a few days London radio's Arabic service, which is controlled by the British intelligence, has attacked the Saudi authorities and reported news, statements, and information which tarnish the reputation of the Saudi political regime in such a way that it can clearly be considered as blatant interference in Saudi internal affairs. Despite this, no Saudi official reply has been made.

The editor wondered: Why does Saudi Arabia not reply to and protest this British Government radio station which is being incited by British intelligence to insult Saudi Arabia and attack its regime. What would have happened if what this radio has done had been done by an Arab radio or other Arab media. Would Saudi Arabia have remained silent and accepted it with magnanimity, as it once accepted what was published by the U.S. TIME magazine, which is linked to U.S. official circles, and what is broadcast by the Arabic service of the British radio station which is controlled by British intelligence?

Relations With Tunisia Said in 'Silent Crisis'

PM1105102494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 p 4

[Report by Talhah Jibril: "Libyan-Tunisian Relations Experiencing Silent Crisis"]

[Excerpts] Rabat—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Tunisian-Libyan relations are currently experiencing a silent crisis following the Tunisian authorities' arrest of two Libyans belonging to the Islamic Call Organization [munazzamat al-da'wah al-islamiyah] [ICO], a Libyan government organization headed by Dr. Muhammad al-Sharif. Sources say that the two Libyans intended to offer financial assistance to some members of the outlawed Ennahda movement in Tunisia.

Libyans arriving from Tunisia say that the Tunisian authorities have begun to subject Libyans traveling across Tunisian territory to thorough search measures, and that some Libyan travelers are forced to stand for many hours at checkpoints on the border between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources say that the ICO, whose headquarters is in Tripoli, is linked to a Libyan organ. The organization, which publishes THE JIHAD magazine, performed several activities in Africa, especially in west African states, under the cover of Islamic preaching. The organization owns several facilities and buildings in Libya.

This is not the first time Tunisian-Libyan relations have experienced coolness as a result of the links between the ICO and the outlawed Ennahda movement. Dr. al-Sharif, who is in charge of the organization, intervened with Tunisia as Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy to secure the release of some Ennahda and ICO prisoners.

After the embargo was imposed on Libya, the organization's name was changed to the Call College [kulliyat al-da'wah], but its activities have continued in the same manner. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Official Calls on Yemenis To Negotiate

EA1005173294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpts] Bishop Gabriel Rorech, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has described his visits to Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe as successful. [passage omitted]

Ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, the first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry, speaking from the ministry's forum, stressed Sudan's support for the Yemeni people's unity. He said the continuing struggle between north and south Yemen served neither the interests of Yemenis nor those of the Arab world, which was under

provocation from global imperialism. Ambassador Baridu expressed the hope that the sons of united Yemen would sit together round the negotiating table and resolve their internal problems without foreign interference. [passage omitted]

Ministry Official Denies Troop Presence in Yemen

EA1005172194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, the first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has denied reports carried by some news agencies and media organs on Sudanese troops taking part in the ongoing war in Yemen. He added that the propagation of such allegations may be aimed at widening the scope of the war using it as a pretext for foreign intervention in the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Ambassador Baridu reaffirmed Sudan's principled attitude toward what was taking place in fraternal Yemen as exemplified by Sudan's eagerness to see the crisis approached within a Yemeni context. He said Sudan's position was based on clear and specific principles, including noninterference in the internal affairs of states and commitment to the charters of the United Nations, OAU, and the Arab League.

Bahrain

Amir Receives U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

JN1005111094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Manama, 10 May (WAKH)—The amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, this morning received Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and North African affairs, and his delegation currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, his highness the amir praised the deep, close relations between Bahrain and the United States. He expressed satisfaction with the level of the existing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation and their importance in maintaining the Gulf region's security and stability.

Mr. Pelletreau briefed his Highness Amir 'Isa on the latest developments in Yemen and the importance of containing the current crisis to prevent it from being exacerbated [words indistinct] dangerous repercussions on the future of Yemen and regional security and stability.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various domains. They also reviewed the latest [words indistinct] Arab, and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Communications Minister 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

Minister, U.S. Envoy Meet

JN1005140494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Manama, 10 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs, today received Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and North African affairs, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, the Bahraini foreign minister and Pelletreau exchanged views on friendly relations and cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United States, ways of enhancing them for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples, and the issue of stability in the region.

They also reviewed several issues of common interest, especially those pertaining to the situation in the Gulf region; current developments in Yemen; the peace process in the Middle East in light of the signing of the recent Palestinian-Israeli accord in Cairo; and the importance of activating negotiations on other tracks in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Kuwait

Amir Receives U.S. Envoy Pelletreau 11 May

LD1105051094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] His highness the amir of the country received His Excellency Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and North African Affairs, at 1015 this morning on the occasion of his visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Comments on Military Capabilities

PM1005160794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 p 4

[Report by Fahd al-Tayyash: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister: Army Has Regained 70 Percent of Its Capabilities"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah has stated that the Kuwaiti Army has regained 70 percent of its capabilities and expected it to reach 100 percent in the near future. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday the Kuwaiti minister said that what mattered to Kuwait was "to get the best arms from any source because our criterion is the quality, not the source, of the arms." In his first statement since assuming his new post he said that the government would not hesitate to provide everything of service to the members of the Kuwaiti Army.

In reply to a question about coordination with the Gulf states regarding the Peninsula Shield forces, the minister said that the defense of Kuwait was primarily the responsibility of the Kuwaiti Army, followed when necessary by the role of the brothers and friends. He said in that respect that "Kuwait does not trust the Iraqi side. Once bitten, twice shy."

He affirmed that attention at present was focused on preventing infiltration of any Iraqi elements into Kuwaiti territory to destabilize its security. He added: "When I was interior minister we foiled Iraqi attempts to undermine Kuwaiti security and we exposed many such designs at the time." The Kuwaiti defense minister also said that his past experience as interior minister would consolidate his role as defense minister in the present government in providing complete security for the public and in ensuring their safety. He added that he was confident about the strength of the internal situation, thanks to the public's conscious support for the work of the security forces.

Oman

Sultan Qabus, U.S. Envoy Meet 7 May

JN0705133894 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received at his office in Bayt al-Barakah Palace today Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and North African Affairs. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. Talks dealt with means of reinforcing the close bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation in all fields. The two sides also discussed developments in the Arab and international arenas and means of achieving security and stability in the region to serve the interests of all its peoples.

Qatar

Foreign Minister's Meeting With Israeli Counterpart Noted

NC0905110594

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic on 6 May on pages 1 and 15 carries a 700-word report which includes the "text" of a letter allegedly sent to Qatari Amir Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani by his brother Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, a former education minister. The letter urges the dismissal of Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani for his "irresponsible" policies.

The letter points to the "negative consequences" of the foreign minister's meeting with his Israeli counterpart and to the continuing Arab media criticism of the "sudden change" in Qatar's foreign policy, "which has always been known for its courageous support for Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular."

Noting in his letter that the amir "always has concern for the higher interests of the country and the national interests of the Arab and Islamic nation," Shaykh Al Thani says: "With his reckless statements and irresponsible acts that demonstrate great vanity and arrogance, the foreign minister has destroyed Qatar's foreign policy and been a dismal failure, for which he deserves questioning and dismissal." The letter also accuses the minister of destroying the domestic economy as he worked "to serve his personal interests, disregarding the nation's economic interests."

The report goes on to say the letter, "which reveals a serious split in the royal family" is the second of its kind since the beginning of the year. It was distributed among some circles in Qatar and the other Gulf Cooperation Council countries when the country was hosting the multilateral talks on Middle East disarmament on 2-3 May, in which Israel participated. It says the first letter, in which Shaykh Al Thani "condemned the foreign minister's meetings with Israeli ministers and officials at the United Nations and in London," was sent to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and to Arab and foreign embassies in Doha.

Amir Confers With U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

JN0905141794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Doha, 9 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and North African affairs, currently on a visit to Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that during the meeting they reviewed the regional situation in light of the latest developments, particularly those related to the process of achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and the situation in Yemen. They also stressed the importance of resuming dialogue and good offices to settle the Yemeni crisis in a way that will avert the serious repercussions of continued war and fighting for both Yemen and the region .

Talks also dealt with a number of regional and international issue of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Israeli Reports on Saudi Stance at Doha Talks Denounced

LD0705204194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1857 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, 7 May—An official source has denounced an Israeli radio report today quoting Eytan Bentzur, the deputy director general at the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry, as saying that Saudi Arabia's stance, during the meetings held in Doha last week on the Arms Control and Regional Security Committee emanating from the Middle East multilateral talks, posed difficulties in the way of reaching agreements.

In a statement to the Saudi news agency, the source said that Saudi Arabia remains committed to the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] decisions whose stance has been general and unified.

The source stressed that Saudi Arabia and the GCC states have not adopted a stance that poses difficulties, as Bentzur said. Posing difficulties, the source added, is procrastinating in the implementation of agreements.

Defense Minister Comments on Events in Yemen

LD0805214094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpts] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, during a meeting with Arab ambassadors in Rome who had come to bid him farewell when he left Rome yesterday, and responding to their wish to know his highness' views on what is happening in Yemen, said:

We have learned from King 'Abd-al-'Aziz and his sons who succeeded him, may God bless them and have mercy on them, to put our responsibilities and duties toward our people and toward our Islamic and Arab nation before our personal comfort.

I had been intending to spend some time here, resting, and undergoing some routine medical examinations, but the start of fighting in the brotherly Yemen, and due to what I have been watching and hearing from the media channels, my heart bleeds with sorrow and sadness because of my acquaintance with the Yemeni leadership, people, and clans, and because of old friendship bonds.

I personally served Yemen and worked for its' development and encouraged its' leaderships, morally and financially, to advance the Yemeni people.

In front of this painful event that is sweeping Yemen, my personal comfort has diminished and I have decided to return to my headquarters to be at the disposal of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his crown prince, who are in constant and serious contact with their brethren kings, princes, and presidents of Arab countries in order to save Yemen from this painful fate, from the abyss it is sliding into. In particular, the Yemeni people, who have worked to build this unity between the two parts, which was blessed by Saudi Arabia when it was established with a positive spirit and in anticipation of a better future.

When disputes surfaced we were not surprised because brothers and friends disagree. But when the language of dialogue stops between brothers and the brothers resort to bloodshed, killing, wasting energies, and destroying the achievements—which the Yemeni people attained with great difficulties—to settle their differences, it then becomes a matter that brings sadness for every Arab and Muslim and bleeds the hearts that love Yemen, the country that we all love and appreciate.

I beseech God from the bottom of my heart to enlighten the brothers in Yemen to solve their differences by resorting to reason, logic, and dialogue aimed at serving Yemen's interests and sons. [passage omitted]

He said Yemen had high hopes in the Kingdom under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, as well as in Egypt under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak and all Arab leaders to find an urgent solution to stop the bloodshed and restore purity to Yemen.

Council Urges Self-Restraint

LD0905190494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1748 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 9 May—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and chairman of the national guard, chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon in al-Yamama palace, in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

The council examined the development of the situation in the world's hotbeds of tension, and in this context, the council was briefed on the development of the situation in fraternal Yemen and the regrettable fierce fighting between brothers there. The council of Ministers affirmed the statement of the authorized Saudi source made last Thursday to the effect that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia urges all the fighting belligerents to show self-restraint, stop the internecine fighting, resort to reason as an arbitrator, and put the interest of Yemen above any other consideration. The council expressed the hope to see the brothers in Yemen respond to the call of the kingdom and the Islamic and sincere Arab patriotism prevail. The council calls for preserving the lives of the Yemeni people so as to put an end to these bloody events, together with prayers to God. Now that we are on the eve of the blessed pilgrimage season, a sacred month, the council hopes the brothers in Yemen resort to calm and reasonable dialogue to arrive at a solution that will bring about stability, security, and safety throughout all Yemen, both north and south.

Concerning the Palestine issue, the council of ministers considers that the signing last Wednesday in Cairo of the Palestinian self-rule agreement between the PLO and Israel as a practicle step on the road towards a just and comprehensive solution based on the UN resolutions. The council urges the co-sponsors of the peace process in the region to exert more efforts to give momentum to this process in all the other tracks so as to realize security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Planes Transport 2d 'Batch' of Palestinian Police

LD1005170994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, 10 May—In implementation of the directives of the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, within the context of his support for the Palestinian cause, issued his noble order to a group of Royal Saudi Air Force planes to help in the operation of transporting the Palestinian police force to al-'Arish in Egypt. A group of C-130 airplanes belonging to the Saudi Royal Air Force have this morning transported the second batch of the Palestinian police force to al-'Arish in preparation for assuming their responsibilities in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in the West Bank.

This participation falls within the interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Government in supporting the Palestinian cause and Palestinian people.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Briefed by Yemen's Salih on Events

JN1005105494 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, last night received a telephone call from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the sisterly Republic of Yemen. The Yemeni president briefed President Zayid on the latest Yemeni developments.

Shaykh Zayid asked the Yemeni brothers to resolve their differences through reason, logic, and dialogue to serve Yemen and the Yemeni people.

President Zayid expressed his deep concern over the continued fighting in Yemen and appealed to all sides to stop fighting immediately to end the bloodshed and take the course of dialogue and understanding in preparation for resuming good offices and mediations to resolve differences and place the interests of Yemen and its people above all other considerations.

During the telephone conversation, the president said that he was confident that the Yemeni leaders and figures would be able to solve their differences and effect a brotherly reconciliation instead of shedding blood, killing, and wasting resources, something which saddens every Arab and Muslim. Yemen and its people are dear to us and we harbor great love for them. His highness said: We appeal to you to fear God in dealing with Yemen and its people and to resort to reason instead of arms.

His highness warned against aggravating the fighting and the resulting inability to control the situation and held the Yemeni leaders responsible. He said: We must give advice and do whatever we can to steer Yemen away from this painful fate.

His highness has been in constant contact with the leaders of fraternal Yemen for the past several days within his highness' endeavors to follow Yemeni developments.

U.S. Official Arrives for Talks With UAE Officials

JN0705152794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (WAKH)—Robert Pelletreau, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East and North African affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Muscat on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The visit is part of a tour of several countries in the region.

During his visit, the U.S. official will hold talks with senior UAE officials on the current developments in the region, the Middle East peace process, and cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Shaykh Zayid 8 May

JN0805102894 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpt] Head of State His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received His Excellency Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East and North African Affairs, at the president's office this morning.

The two sides discussed ways to promote relations between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the United States and the scope of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They also discussed developments in the Arab and international arenas, and how to achieve stability in the region in the service of the interests of its people. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Departs 9 May

JN0905121394 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 May

[Text] Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East and North African Affairs, left the country today at the end of a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the visit, Pelletreau met with ranking state officials with whom he discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Yemen

Wrapup of Reports on Events in Yemen; Casualty Tolls Noted

Correspondent Updates Battles

JN0705162594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1432 GMT 7 May 94

["Live dispatch" by 'Abd-al-Ghani Nasir al-Shamiri, radio and television correspondent in Mukayris]

[Text] Dear listeners: God's peace and blessings be upon you. I greet you from the valiant Mukayris district in the Abyan Governorate. Here is the true account of the progress of the purging of the strongholds of treason and separation. As for the 20th Brigade in Mukayris, the secessionist, rebellious traitors imagined that through this brigade and the extraordinary amounts of ammunition stored in it, they would be able to declare separation from this brigade. However, they were disappointed, for their evil plotting boomeranged against them. Our faithful, unionist forces managed on Thursday [5 May] at 1100 to seize the brigade, keeping its ammunition to defend the Yemen of unity of democracy, the Yemen of wellbeing and peace. As for the personnel of this brigade, some of them surrendered, while the others were captured.

The vanguards of the faithful, unionist forces are marching to pounce on the remnants of the [word indistinct] traitors and rebels, hammering the last nails

in the coffin of separatists who rebelled against constitutional legitimacy and harbored evil and ill intentions against this beloved homeland. However, the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God. [koranic verse]

The vanguards of our valiant unionist and legitimate forces are removing the remaining dens of traitors, pounding their heads, which harbor secessionist illusions, and making them taste the bitter consequences of their evil intentions and acts. In al-Dayqah area this morning, the al-Wahadah Brigade forces under the command of Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Mansur engaged the rebellious secessionist forces of the 30th Brigade. Their forward forces were destroyed by our valiant, unionist forces, the defenders of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. Many personnel were detained and the entire equipment of those two brigades [as heard] were seized.

Our forces are now continuing to liquidate other units that continue to persist in their course of injustice, misguidance, rebellion, and separation.

Southern Troops Urged To Join 'Legitimacy'

JN0905151394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 May 94

[Unattributed "call"]

[Text] O lofty and honorable Yemeni people, pride and glory are yours because you are the makers of great deeds and glories. You have our greetings, love, loyalty, and all heroic sacrifices since you represent the origin, right, and the source of all that is good and all powers. O dear steadfast people, you have our thanks and appreciation, because your Armed Forces achieved continuous victories against the elements of apostasy, rebellion, and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] for the sake of foiling the plan of hostility to the people, which is aimed at destroying the homeland, and of checking the intrigue of sabotaging the constitutional institutions in the country. Congratulations to you and to all the sons of our people in all the governorates of the republic, in Sanaa, Aden, Sa'dah, Abyan, Ta'izz, Lahij, al-Bayda', Hajjah, al-Maharah, al-Jawf, al-Hudaydah, Hadhramaut, Ma'rib, Shabwah, and all over Yemen. Congratulations to you on the victories of unity, freedom, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. You have our heartfelt greetings and thanks in all positions, on coasts, in valleys, and on mountains while you are supporting your legitimate leadership, constitutional institutions, and valiant Armed Forces in the battle of unity and fate, the battle of defending unity, freedom, and democracy, the battle of existence and fate, and the battle of defending unity, freedom, justice, and equality.

Greetings and appreciation to your gigantic Army, which is fulfilling the pledge to safeguard unity and democracy through its confrontation with the tyrannical secessionists in the YSP and their attempts to ignite the military situation and to foment sedition for the sake of achieving their personal purposes and fragmenting the homeland and undermining the people's unity. The army of unity and democracy confronted treachery and aggression and performed its sacred duties so as to uproot all the secessionist and traitorous fortifications and to destroy them one stronghold after another. Your army is, at this moment, on the brink of crushing with its confident mighty hand the secessionists' wicked fortifications by besieging their dens with cordons of fire. It will write with its hands on the gates of free Aden the true and profound meaning of freedom after this freedom has been abused for the past 30 years under the coercion and repression of the party's dictatorship and its theory of rancor against the people and all its classes, which have lived under all woes of humiliation, fear, and death under the policies, conflicts, and massacres of the unjust secessionist clique. We address the members of this clique: You may turn to the right and turn to the left, but you will always find behind you the angry sea with roaring waves that will toss you asunder, and in front of you the army of the state and the people, the army of wisdom and faith, whose battalions and brigades are devouring you.

O treacherous secessionists, remnants of the collapsing red communism, whichever way you turn your face and no matter what cloak of deception and trickery you try, no one will trust you because you have never trusted anyone. You have not even trusted each other. You did not trust the fortress of unity, the giant revolutionary and historic achievement that you sought to be a part of. Those who are conspiring against fate and the people for their selfish and personal interests and ambitions, will only reap ignominy and defeat. It has become clear that the red star fluttering above your heads, with which you have decorated the walls of your houses and camps, remains vivid evidence of your rancor, infidelity, sinfulness, and disobedience.

You, brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the military units under the control of the secessionist clique, must join the army of unity, freedom, and democracy, as some of your brothers did in 'Imran, Dhamar, Yarim, Sanaa, Abyan, Shabwah, and in the Aden Governorate. This is so that your loyalty is to God, the homeland, the revolution, and constitutional legitimacy. This is especially important since this loyalty constitutes the course of safeguarding your life and the blood of your comrades-in-arms, through which you will restore your prestige and position in life and in the Armed Forces. Then you may return to your honorable position of defending the unity and democracy in the battles of defending right, freedom, unity, democracy, and of safeguarding the sanctity of constitutional legitimacy.

Here are the dens of treason and the strongholds of the secessionists, collapsing before the soldiers who have faith in God and the homeland, and in unity and democracy. Do not be late in joining the ranks of the advancing forces of unity and legitimacy so that you will have the honor to triumph with them, for the will of the

people, and so that you may safeguard history, which is now back on its true course after the achievement of unity and of fortifying it with democracy. Let the people be above all parties and have the upper hand. Let their interests be above all interests, selfishness, and parochial party policies, God willing.

Official Comments on Military Situation

JN0905180294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, has explained that the military situation on various fronts is going in favor of our Armed Forces, the forces of constitutional legitimacy. He added that what is helping our Armed Forces decide the situation militarily against the secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is the fact that large numbers of the forces that were under the control of these elements have joined the ranks of the forces of unity and legitimacy.

In a news conference held today, which was attended by a number of Arab and international newspaper, news agency, and radio correspondents, he said that the Armed Forces are now close to the area of Dar Sa'd, overlooking the city of Aden, and that they are continuing their advance toward the dens of the gang that rebelled against legitimacy. He pointed out that the situation in the governorate of Abyan was decided in favor of our Armed Forces on the day before yesterday, and that fighting has come to a complete halt in all combat areas in this governorate.

Fighting is now confined to the governorates of Lahij and Aden, where the forces of unity and legitimacy will soon finish their tasks in the two governorates. In this regard, brother 'Abd-al-Ghani asserted that the military base under the control of rebels and secessionists in the area of al-'And in the governorate of Lahij is about to fall into the hands of the Armed Forces, which are conducting a firm siege on this base.

He denounced the criminal action that the rebellious and secessionist gang is carrying out by launching missile attacks on the capital, Sanaa, and on the governorates of Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah. These attacks targeted national and vital institutions. The objectives they sought by shelling these institutions were not achieved, and their evil wish foundered, so the missiles fell on mountains, hills, and valleys, as well as on some residential areas, he added.

Asked about the mediation efforts of certain states, the brother Presidential Council member said: For our part, we always announced that we support dialogue; we called for dialogue, and we committed ourselves to its results. We are also constantly committed to democratic policy, the constitution, and legitimacy. However, the rebellious and secessionist leaders in the YSP rejected dialogue. We now reject foreign mediations because what is taking place is an internal affair between legitimacy and those rebelling against it. Moreover, we vehemently reject mediation efforts that regard the conflict as one between two different regimes. This is because the conflict is one, the country is one, and the legitimacy exists in the House of Representatives, which was elected by the people on 27 April 1993.

Within this context, brother 'Abd-al-Ghani expressed great appreciation for the sentiments of the Arab brethren and friends throughout the world toward what is happening in our country. He asserted that there would be a Yemeni solution to the problem because the conflict is one between legitimacy and the rebellion against it. The world states should support legitimacy and democracy in our country, he added.

Al-'Attas Urges End to Fighting

LD1005161194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1434 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 10 May—The dismissed head of the Yemeni Government, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, has called for a halt to the current fighting in Yemen, abandoning any ideas to divide the country, and using dialogue to solve the pending problems.

In an interview with the Tunisian EL-CHOUROUK, published today, he said: Entering war is an easy task we had cautioned against, but getting out of war is a difficult operation.

He attributed the military fighting in Yemen to the existence of forces he described as influential and clinging to their positions, which reject the provisions of the agreement signed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid in the Jordanian capital Amman last February.

He added: These forces have waged war to maintain their control—particularly the tribal one—influence, and narrow interests in the country, throwing experience, the union, and everything away.

He added that the current situation in the Republic of Yemen mixes up the militarization of the regime and the tribe and the state, and this is the core of the problem and the main motive of the war, which has been fed by the influential forces in the country.

Mr. al-'Attas accused the previous leadership of Northern Yemen of not respecting the unity agreement signed in May 1990 between the two northern and southern parts of Yemen.

He said the previous leadership of North Yemen had resorted to "the elimination of the leading members of the Yemeni Socialist Party through intimidation, assassinations, and various other actions."

Al-'Attas denied the existence of a regional factor in the fighting currently raging in Yemen. "There is no country influencing the events in Yemen or interfering to settle

accounts," he said. "The reports talking about a role for the neighboring states to feeding the conflict are mere hearsay and misinformation designed to cover up the practices and behavior in this war, in which every Yemeni is a loser, and because of which unity, democracy and the future of Yemen in general are being slaughtered."

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih dismissed yesterday evening Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas and appointed a new defense minister, Staff Brigadier Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, to replace the dismissed southern Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir.

YSP Leader Comments

PM1005185794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 p 2

[Reprot by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Socialist Party Leadership: Media Talk of Aden Siege Deception; North Accused on Shelling Civilians, Internationalizing War"]

[Text] London—Dr. Sa'id Yasin Nu'man, chairman of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Secretariat, has denied what he termed "rumors" about the northern forces' presence on the approaches to Aden. He stressed that the offensive of the forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih "has been curbed on all axes." He added that this compelled them to haphazardly shell the villages near their positions, destroying more than 30 houses in al-Dali'. More than 80 families have been wounded in Kirsh. Both areas are in Lahij Governorate.

He said that haphazard bombardment by heavy artillery of residential areas has led to many casualties among women and children, who could not escape. And that the element of surprise has contributed to increasing the number of casualties. However, Dr. Nu'man declined to disclose any figures about the losses at the present stage. He said that "the haphazard bombardment has made it difficult, so the real results will not be known until later."

The interview, which was conducted over the telephone between London and Aden, was also joined by Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah (Muhsin), member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of housing and rural planning. He said that "militias belonging to the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] are playing a major role in leading and launching the battle." He said that this falls "within the framework of qualifying themselves for assuming power at a later stage. Because they helped to spark off the crisis militarily. And they want matters in Yemen to proceed similarly to the way they did in Afghanistan."

Muhsin specifically accused 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anasi, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the YRG, "of throwing his party's weight behind the Yemeni president's military orientation. This orientation has confirmed what President Salih said to U.S. Envoy Robert Pelletreau, namely that he is fighting communism."

Muhsin said that "the YRG has a major role inside the northern political security organ." He expressed his astonishment at "the sudden emergence of the fundamentalist scheme." He added that "it now justifies its presence by controlling key positions."

He said that, "despite the current accord between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the YRG, a conflict is expected to occur between them at a later stage. Because there are indications in that direction, especially as the GPC faces have decreased in number in the southern and eastern governorates, while new YRG faces have begun to emerge and move actively."

Asked whether there is a foreign role in the Yemeni war, Dr. Nu'man said that "the use of non-Yemeni forces is clear. It proves that the battle has assumed other dimensions. So we do not know why they [the north] are turning down Arab efforts to secure a cease-fire."

To prove what he is saying, Dr. Nu'man added that "it seems that most of the foreign elements participating in the battle entered through the YRG, with the exception of the Iraqi role, which comes within the coordination between Sanaa and Baghdad."

He said that "southern forces have arrested three non-Yemeni officers in the al-Dali' area: a Sudanese, a Jordanian, and an Iraqi. They were participating in leading al-Hamzah Brigade operations. It has been proved that they were there without their governments' knowledge." He pointed out that they will be paraded soon on television screens before Arab and foreign public opinion.

Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah said that northern civilian planes have been moved to the airport of the Eritrean capital, Asmara. He added that a military delegation headed by Brigadier General al-Bashiri, former (northern) chief of staff, visited Eritrea and returned three days ago. However, he declined to comment on reports that northern warplanes are using Eritrean airports. He said: "We know nothing about that or about reports of a secret visit to Eritrea by the Yemeni president."

On the ongoing fighting between al-'Amaliqah forces and southern units in Abyan Governorate, Dr. Nu'man said that "the fighting is continuing. The al-'Amaliqah Brigade went there immediately after unity, to the areas agreed upon. When the crisis began, they deployed in the towns and villages near their positions. But they have now retreated from the positions they occupied."

He said that "al-'Amaliqah forces' retreat is attributable to the refusal of a large number of them to fight in accordance with the instructions issued to them by the GPC. As a result, the morale of the other troops has collapsed. But Sanaa reinforced them with additional troops." He said that they "do not know why they are

fighting. The unity is there and the document is there, but they [the leaders] are refusing to implement them."

Dr. Nu'man rejected the reports and statements issued from Sanaa. He said: "They control communications and are misleading Arab and foreign media by saying that Aden is under siege—which is remote from the truth, because people are living their life completely normally."

Defense Ministry Issues Communique

EA1005212094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 94

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] For the fourteenth day in a row, the forces of the bloody gang of the al-Ahmar clan continue perpetrating their criminal acts against our Yemeni people and their valiant Armed Forces. Today, these iniquitous, savage acts are being perpetrated against the areas of al-Dali Province and the districts of Karish and Mukayris, which are the areas that were on the borders before Yemeni unity. In the al-Dali area, forces of the adventurist gang of the al-Ahmar clan continued to shell al-Dali town and its neighboring villages with heavy artillery, rockets, and aircraft in the tenth attempt to penetrate the defenses of our valiant forces which are confronting these iniquitous forces with total bravery and audacity.

The defenders of this province, in cooperation with the masses of the people which began to arrive in this province (?from) various provinces of Lahij Governorate, are displaying a valiant resistance and splendid heroism, which reflects the spirit of the original struggle between our forces and the masses. Despite the intensive random shelling against the peaceful villages and houses by the forces of the al-Ahmar gang, our defending forces continued their resolute confrontation, inflicting on the hostile forces heavy loss of life and equipment.

In another former border area, the adventurist Sanaa clique tried to capture (Kathbub) District in the direction of Bab al-Mandab [word indistinct], but our heroic forces repulsed this abortive attempt and the attacking forces of the al-Ahmar clan returned to where they came from, suffering losses.

As for the capital of Abyan Governorate, our forces have almost imposed their control of this area after units of the al-'Amaliqah forces retreated and scattered in all directions, while many of these units, officers and other ranks, surrendered and joined our forces.

The Defense Ministry appeals to Arab and world public opinion, particularly the bodies and organizations concerned with defending human rights, including the Yemeni Red Crescent, the Arab Red Crescent organizations, and the International Red Crescent, to condemn the murderous campaigns against captives who fell into the hands of the gang of the al-Ahmar clan in the northern governorates, as well as savage acts and random shelling of villages and houses of citizens, particularly in al-Dali Province and in Karish and Mukayris districts, and the forceful detention of these citizens. It calls on these organizations to intervene to rescue the wounded and provide first aid to them, particularly among the civilians. While the Defense Ministry conveys to our people and to the Arab and world these facts, it expresses full confidence that all the abortive attempts of the bloody gang of the al-Ahmar clan will fail. Their deeds will crash on the rock of our armed forces' steadfastness whose number increases daily by hundreds and thousands, in addition to the masses of people who increasingly support our forces, the forces of unity, democracy and modernization.

Statement Claims Advances; 3 Planes Downed

JN1005213494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2103 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A responsible military spokesman in the Defense Ministry has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly God loves those who fight in his cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse] With deep faith that God supports the soldiers of right, the people, and the revolution and that he will grant them victory, the heroes in our valiant Armed Forces pursue their heroic and epic fighting in the battles of confrontation of all the forces of apostasy, rebellion, and secession led by the criminal and evil elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] command in the governorates of Lahij, Abyan, and Aden, scoring decisive victories in the performance of their tasks.

As we affirmed in a previous statement the day before yesterday our valiant Armed Forces in the southwestern axis succeeded in completely destroying all the units of the (Labuza) Brigade camp and have proceeded from it toward the al-'Anad camp where our valiant forces succeeded yesterday morning in crossing the fortifications of its first defensive line. Our forces continue to bravely and firmly engage the other defensive fortifications of the camp, which is considered one of the most important military strongholds that the elements of apostasy and secession in the YSP command had [word indistinct]. It contains defensive fortifications contributed by the Soviet experts during the Communist rule, as well as huge weapons arsenals, and an air base that was administered before 22 May 1990 by the Socialist bloc. Following the unity, this place remained out of reach for the institutions of constitutional legitimacy. No one knew its secrets except the members of the rebellious, secessionist gang and those who are close to it.

This gang was depending on this place to implement the most serious episode of its conspiracy to destroy and fragment the homeland. The final phase to restore this

place to the Armed Forces and constitutional legitimacy is now under way, thanks to the heroes of the forces of unity and legitimacy.

In the Lahij Governorate axis, units from our Armed Forces are now working to finish their combat missions in the face of the forces of the secessionist gang. The units are advancing to achieve their objectives.

In the Abyan-Aden axis, our forces have also continued to defeat the secessionists hostile, desperate attacks advancing from the Aden garrison, forcing them to retreat.

In the face of the treacherous air attacks on the units of our valiant Armed forces and on defenseless cities, the heroes of the Air Defenses courageously confronted them. They managed to shoot down a fighter aircraft in al-Rahidah region and another in the al-Dali' area. They also shot down a third aircraft in [name indistinct] in the Qa'tabah District. The aircraft of the forces of apostasy and secession concentrated their attacks on the city of Ta'izz and al-Rahidah. One of their odious shells hit al-Rahidah Hospital, killing several patients in the hospital.

The Air Force aircraft in our valiant Armed Forces also conducted several offensive sorties against what was left of the camps and concentrations of the secessionist, rebellious forces in all axes of the fighting, achieving success in all their combat missions. They returned safely to base.

The forces protecting unity and upholding constitutional legitimacy and democracy received a number of troops, including commanders, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, who were misled by the secessionist elements. They joined the ranks of right and unity, and the trench of the state and its constitutional institutions, expressing their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and the unity and rejecting the orders of the separatist clique. They stressed their readiness to continue fighting along side their colleagues in the Armed Forces in defense of unity and the constitutional legitimacy in order to defeat the remaining dens of the mutinous secessionist clique.

Large quantities of weapons, ammunition, combat equipment, and vehicles were seized. Information also clarified that the rebel separatist forces are forcing citizens, including young people, to join their ranks after all their threats and calls to the citizens to respond to the illegitimate general mobilization decision issued by the deposed Haytham Qasim Salih. This is taking place while the morale and the feelings of confidence in victory are increasing within the ranks of the units fighting in support of the unity and constitutional legitimacy and in defense of democracy. The citizens' hopes in all governorates are increasing in that those who wanted to disturb the people's life, fragment their unity and bargain with their fate and existence in the service of their own sick whims and illegitimate ambitions, which are hostile to the people and the homeland and to all the principles and values, will inevitably be doomed. O you who believe, if you will help the cause of Allah, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] Issued by the Defense Ministry.

North Yemen Offers 'Immediate Cease-Fire'

NC1105073194 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, May 11 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni leaders offered an immediate ceasefire in the civil war on Wednesday if their southern rivals agreed to accept President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's government, a Yemeni envoy said.

Salih and his followers have ousted Vice-President 'Ali Salim al- Bid and other prominent southerners from the government since fighting broke out last week, accusing them of wanting secession.

Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, an envoy of Salih, said that the "political leadership in Sanaa is ready to accept an immediate ceasefire, on condition that they (the southerners) respect the constitution."

Civil War Casualty Toll

NC1105075394 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 11 (MENA)—The number of people killed since war erupted in Yemen has reached 119, eight of them Somalis, while the wounded reached 489.

Director of Military Hospital and Health Service here Muhammad Naji told MENA correspondent today that out of those casualties 79 military officers were killed and 299 were wounded. The rest are civilians and foreigners.

The number of Somalis wounded in the Yemen civil war has reached 39, director of health services said. There are several thousand Somalis living here that have sought refuge in Yemen after the start of the civil war in their country, he said.

Southern forces used attack a military hospital in one of the northern regions, he added [sentence as received].

Scud Missile Hits Sanaa; Family Killed

NC1105092994 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Doha, May 11 (AFP)—A Scud missile hit the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Wednesday [11 May] killing several people, a northern Yemeni spokesman said quoted by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY.

The missile, fired by southern forces, hit an industrial site in the centre of the city, and an entire family was among those killed, the agency said.

Al-Bid Reacts to Dismissal, Comments on Events

NC0605213394 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 May 94

[Report from correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi in Aden—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is reaction here to the recent decision made in Sanaa to withdraw confidence from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the presidential council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and from other party officials and to the declaration of a 30-day state of emergency in the country.

[Al-Bid] We know from where we draw our legitimacy. Our legitimacy stems from our people. The legitimacy of radio and television that is imposed on the people is transient and can last only a few days. President Salih might believe that he can impose it for 30 days. Well, he cannot, not even for a few days. Trust your cause and your people, your cohesion, and national unity and protect every citizen without discrimination, no matter from what province they come. All those who are with the pledge and accord document, with full national cohesion, and with the peaceful and democratic struggle are with us, wherever they are born or from whatever province they hail. We have also issued instructions and a camp has been opened in Lahij for our brothers who want to join us from any province. They are welcome. [passage omitted]

Explains Causes of War

AU0905125394 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 May 94 pp 144-145

[Interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Like a Ripe Fruit"]

[Text] [SPIEGEL] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who comes from the north, blames you for the outbreak of the civil war.

[Al-Bid] Only an idiot would say that. Salih has been hatching a plot since the very beginning. His intentions were dishonorable. Unfortunately, we realized this too late.

[SPIEGEL] Were you and your Marxist colleagues in Aden not aware of the dangers of unification?

[Al-Bid] We thought that after the end of the Cold War, the spirit of the age would influence the responsible persons in Sana'a and Aden. We thought worn-out ideologies would be jettisoned and a common Yemeni model developed.

[SPIEGEL] The Muslim-conservative north is accusing the socialists of not having abandoned their communist stereotypes.

[Al-Bid] On the contrary, we in the south have permitted all political parties to exist. Even western diplomats are praising our freedom of the press and freedom of speech. State-controlled land and enterprises have been reprivatized, and the state trade monopoly has been abolished. The north has contributed nothing to the Yemeni marriage. On the contrary, the gentlemen in Sana'a, obsessed with their tribal interests and with gaining personal power, are trying to enforce their anti-progressive ideas in the south, even by means of force.

[SPIEGEL] And you do not want to change the North Yemenis?

[Al-Bid] We want to change society and modernize it, but by democratic means. The elections last year showed that our ideas, geared at a social market economy and political pluralism, have fallen on fertile ground even in the north.

[SPIEGEL] In the south, you were able to assert your leading position, but in the north you have gained very little.

[Al-Bid] In any case, the election result did not suit the tribal politicians and the social groups linked to them. They thought the oil-rich south would fall into their lap like a ripe fruit. What they failed to achieve with the ballot paper they tried to achieve with a series of political coups and military strength.

Why did I return to Aden together with all the other South Yemeni politicians? Because in Sana'a and all over the north, the murderers and Muslim terrorists who are fed by the ruling clique are enjoying total freedom.

[SPIEGEL] For your part, you have extended military service and equipped the south with foreign weapons.

[Al-Bid] Purely for the purpose of self-defense. Several weeks ago, the Northern Army started cutting off all supplies to our units in North Yemen, in order to destroy them later. The storming of Aden is supposed to take place without any resistance.

[SPIEGEL] Can you resist the militarily superior North?

[Al-Bid] We will use all the means at our disposal to prevent the Middle Ages from also swallowing the South.

Decree Issued Dismissing Oil Minister, Aden Governor

JN0705050794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 94

["Text" of Presidential Decrees 9 and 10 issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 6 May]

[Text] Presidential Council Decree No. 9 of 1994 was issued yesterday dismissing Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources. Following is the text of the decree:

After taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, out of concern for the public welfare, and after getting the approval of the Presidential Council, the Presidential Council chairman has decreed the following:

Article 1: Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, oil and mineral resources, shall be dismissed from his post.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date it was issued, and shall be published in the the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency of the Republic in Sanaa on 26 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 6 May 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Presidential Council Decree No. 10 of 1994 was also issued dismissing Aden Governor Salih Munassar al-Siyali. Following is the text of the decree:

After taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, out of concern for the people's welfare, and after getting the approval of the Presidential Council, the Presidential Council chairman has decreed the following:

Article 1: Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyali, Aden governor, shall be dismissed from his post.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance, and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency of the Republic in Sanaa on 26 Dhi al- Qi'dah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 6 May 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

YSP Welcomes International Efforts To End Fighting

EA0605162294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] political bureau has welcomed the efforts of brothers and friends to stop the in-fighting and war ignited by the secessionist military family in Sanaa between the sons of the Yemeni people and their armed forces. It confirmed that the response to these Arab and international efforts and initiatives was prompted by the Yemeni people's interest to preserve their gains and unity, and safeguard their armed forces economic structures and the citizens' souls. It was in this respect that the YSP political bureau responded to the calls by the United States, French, Egyptian, and Algerian Governments, and expressed its hope that these calls and efforts would receive the support of all the sides concerned at a time when the battles are leading towards comprehensive destruction.

In keeping with these efforts, the militant brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, continued his contacts with a number of Arab presidents, including the Egyptian president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, and the Libyan president, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He briefed them on developments in Yemen and the bloody battles at the various axes of fighting. He thanked them for their concern for Yemen and confirmed the YSP's compliance with any effort to reflect Yemen and the Yemeni people from the devastation of war and in-fighting among the brothers.

House Asks Embassies, Others Not To Deal With Prime Minister

JN0805110494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met today in the presence of the parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party. It discussed the issue of the illegitimate and unconstitutional moves and activities abroad by brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister. The conferees supported the issuance of a circular to all embassies and official and diplomatic quarters in the sisterly and friendly countries and the international bodies and institutions, asking them not to officially deal with brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, currently abroad, because he was not on an official mission. He was not entrusted to undertake such a mission by the legitimate and constitutional political leadership nor has this mission been approved by the Council of Ministers.

Official, Parliamentary Sources React to al-'Attas Remarks

JN1105052894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Responsible political sources have expressed amazement at statements by the so-called source in the office of Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, [as heard] on the Presidential Council decision to dismiss him from office. The sources said that such statements come from persons who have lost all their legitimacy and legality.

The sources said: Al-'Attas has been officially indicted by the state's legislative bodies, led by the House of Representatives, which presented a recommendation for a decision to stop the activities of the prime minister—who says that he is being treated in the United States—activities aimed to serve the views of the rebels in the international arena.

The sources denied that the decision to dismiss al-'Attas was a reflection of disorder or was an arbitrary move, as his office claimed. The decision came within the national responsibility which obliges the political leadership to carry out its constitutional duties. The sources emphasized that the war decision was that of the adventurist

Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secessionists, who created the crisis and continued to carry out various provocations for nine months.

On the same level, parliamentary sources have voiced surprise at statements by the secessionist YSP leadership on the constitution and said that it was these individuals who ignored the constitution and did not abide by it. They fabricated the crisis in order to avoid the constitution.

The parliamentary sources said that the House of Representatives has the right to withdraw its confidence in the government if the head of this government abides by the constitution. However, the House has the right to issue a recommendation for dismissal if the Presidential Council does not exercise its rights in accordance with the constitution. The sources added: The political leadership is responsible for implementing the constitution in accordance with Articles 105 and 112 of the valid constitution. Therefore, the political leadership made the decision to dismiss al-'Attas and to refer him to interrogation. The sources noted that the decision does not need the acceptance of anyone because it is supported by the power of the constitution and issued by the state. It is also in harmony with the commitment to the constitution of the legitimate leadership and its care for national interests.

It is worth mentioning that al-'Attas was one of the leading secessionist elements in the YSP and played a serious role in continuing the crisis and igniting the fire of war by his conduct, which was hostile to the unity state, and his following al-Bid, the leader of the rebellion, in their moves to escalate the crisis politically and militarily. Al-'Attas then fled from the battlefield with all the money he could gather, leaving the remaining rebellion leaders to face their fate alone.

House Speaker Visits Saudi Arabia, Basindwah to Egypt

JN1005141894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, left Sanaa International Airport for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this afternoon. They are carrying a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. It deals with the current developments in our country and issues of concern to the two sisterly countries.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah also left Sanaa airport for Cairo with a message from brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Parliament Speaker Comments

LD1005214994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2026 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 May, KUNA—Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the speaker of the Yemeni Parliament has said that he is visiting Riyadh to clarify what is happening in Yemen "within the framework of the solid and traditional relations between the two countries."

Shaykh al-Ahmar, who arrived in Riyadh tonight, told KUNA: "We have not come to look for mediation." In reply to a question whether he was hoping for a Saudi role to solve the Yemeni crisis, Shaykh al-Ahmar said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strives to do good deeds always and everywhere."

Shaykh al-Ahmar, who is accompanied by the planning minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, is carrying a message for King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on "the developments of the situation in Yemen and issues of mutual interest."

Shaykh al-Ahmar has denied the existence of Arab mediation to resolve the conflict, indicating that "since he left Sanaa this afternoon he has not heard of any mediation." He added that "the conflict has been decided militarily after the northern troops reached Shaykh 'Uthman area, situated north of Aden." He further said that the southern air base of al-'Anad had been captured and "it was brought under control this afternoon." [passage omitted]

Minister Plenipotentiary Discusses Crisis, Urges Resolution

NC1005063894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Interview with Minister Plenipotentiary Shahir Sayf by 'Imad 'Abd-al-Tawwab; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] What are you telling the Yemeni leaders in these circumstances?

[Sayf] Like any other Yemeni citizen, we are calling on the Yemeni leaders to resort to reason and to stop the military operations that are harming innocent civilians. Children, women, and men are daily falling victim to these operations. Villages and numerous civilian installations are being destroyed. We call on them to stop this, resort to reason, sit at the negotiating table, talk as brothers about the differences, and try to reach solutions that satisfy all the parties, spare Yemen more fighting, try to salvage what could be salvaged, and avoid letting Yemen enter a dark tunnel with the outcome known only to God almighty.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Are you calling for a dialogue among family members?

[Sayf] The one family that could find credible solutions based on the Pledge and Accord Document.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] What do you say about Egypt's efforts? Some people are now criticizing Egypt and saying that it has not intervened.

[Sayf] On the contrary, Egypt has always been the first to intervene to find solutions to many crises faced by the Arab countries. Egypt has always been first. It was first in the Yemeni crisis through President Husni Mubarak's envoy who shuttled between Sanaa and Aden in an attempt to reach a peaceful solution for the crisis in Yemen. Even after the fighting erupted, Egypt took the leading role when it called on the Arab League to hold an extraordinary session to try to stop the fighting and to call on the warring parties to resort to dialogue to resolve their differences.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] As a Yemeni citizen living in Cairo, I am asking you about Egypt's efforts. There have been contacts between President Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid even after the fighting erupted. Do you think Egypt's stance is the correct one?

[Sayf] Egypt's stance has been very sound. Contacts have taken place between Mubarak and President Salih and Vice President al-Bid, even during the fighting. Egypt's role is needed in these times. I believe that Egypt is the leading Arab country. The Arab nation suffers many setbacks whenever Egypt and its role are absent.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] In whose hands is the solution?

[Sayf] The solution is in the hands of the Yemenis but with the help of their Arab brothers.

['Abd-al-Wattab] Several days ago, Egypt was the scene of the signing of the Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement and there was great joy for the Palestinians, some of whom are in Yemen. Do you think this is the right time for this Yemeni crisis, when the brother is killing his brother and tanks and planes are on the attack?

[Sayf] You feel real pain when you see reconciliations taking place everywhere, meetings, and the signing of agreements here and there, while the world is daily watching the bloody fighting in Yemen, which is claiming the lives of many innocent people who have no interest in the fighting. I hope the Arab efforts will be effective and that more contacts will be held with the Yemeni leaders to put them back on the right course.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] I thank you for this interview and ask: What is your message through the Cairo radio network to the brothers in Yemeni?

[Sayf] I can say only this: Pray to God to guide our Yemeni leaders, inspire them to achieve an end to this bloody fighting, and make them resort to reason and hold dialogue because we can reach very good results through dialogue. We might not achieve any results through fighting. The damage could be more grave if the fighting continues in this way and claims more victims.

'Responsible Source' Reviews Events in 'Conspiracy'

JN0705073694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

The political leadership is following the sincere brotherly initiatives launched in the past two days by some fraternal and friendly states that aim to help our country overcome the serious and difficult circumstances.

We appreciate the good intentions that prompted all these brothers and friends to take their initiatives, and value highly all the efforts they exerted in the past to end the sharp crisis fabricated by 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the secessionist clique in the Socialist Party. We also want to remind them about how far the political leadership has gone in the past months to respond positively to these initiatives and good offices, and to remind them of the tolerance and patience it displayed and the concessions it made, even at the level of sacrificing certain election gains, hoping that the Socialist Party leadership would reconsider its position and abandon its intransigent positions. It also hoped the Socialist Party leadership would abandon its insistence on continuing the crisis and not allow its arrogance and extortionist attempts to reach the extent of plunging into defiance and rebellion and entrench a de facto division.

However, al-Bid and other members of the secessionist clique in the Socialist Party did not stop at that point. First, they started to kindle the fire of sedition among the ranks of our one Yemeni people. When they discovered that they failed in this attempt, they moved to incite fighting among the ranks of the Armed Forces by using some of the hardline military commanders who are members of the Socialist Party itself and who are involved with them in the scheme of secession and insurgency.

The sequence of the conspiracy against unity and constitutional legitimacy and the attempt to drive the homeland into the furnace of fratricide continued. The first episode was the futile attack against the al-'Amaliqah Forces in the Abyan area the day after the Pledge and Accord Document was signed in Amman on 10 Ramadan, corresponding to 20 February, and the start of fighting in (?Harf Sufyan) and Shabwah. That series reached its climax in the 'Imran camp, where the 3d Armored Brigade attacked the 1st Brigade, which was stationed alongside the 3d Brigade in the same camp. The result of that painful and bloody fighting was tragic by all standards and caused the hearts of all honorable people in Yemen to bleed. Large number of soldiers from the two brigades were either killed or wounded and our Armed Forces lost scores of tanks and equipment, as well as many valiant men.

Leader President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had wished that this tragic incident and major loss would be the last of the tragedies and calamities at this difficult and serious stage in the history of our great people. Instead, the insurgent secessionist gang controlling the Socialist Party did not learn from this very costly lesson. It embarked on an all-out war in a flagrant defiance of all requirements of constitutional legitimacy and in a painful and flagrant insurrection that runs counter to all values and traditions. This started by ordering the Ba Suhayb Brigade in Dhamar to mobilize and deploy its tanks outside its camp and inside the city without any justification, and to start an attack against the Republican Guard battalion stationed at a distance from it.

Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, was distressed by the escalating situation. In a serious and sincere attempt to contain that serious development, which started at 2010 on Wednesday 4 May, he issued his decisive and prompt orders to immediately cease fire. He also ordered the commander of the Republican Guard battalion not to respond to fire from the Ba Suhayb Brigade, even unilaterally, regardless of how long the Ba Suhayb Brigade continued to open fire. Indeed, the Republican Guard battalion ceased fire upon the orders of the brother president while the Ba Suhayb Brigade continued to fire its bombs and rockets in all directions, even in the direction of the houses of defenseless families.

Less than an hour later, the guns and tanks of insurgency and secession in Aden started fierce attacks against the Central Security soldiers, who only had automatic machine guns as weapons. Meanwhile, military elements from the gang of insurgency and secession stationed in al-'Anad, Lahij Governorate, started a fierce and ceaseless attack against the 2d Brigade, which is stationed in (?Rassal).

With these escalating, serious developments, the political leadership found itself facing a flagrant mutiny, a clear military coup d'etat attempt, and a state of a comprehensive aggression. It had to confront that handful of conspirators and mutineers after things reached a climax.

The people, with all their honorable factions and national forces, particularly their valiant Armed Forces which abides by the constitutional legitimacy, are confronting the mutineers who deviated from the national and popular consensus. The political leadership is assuming its responsibilities and powers to protect law and order, unity, and democracy in all parts of the one and united Yemeni homeland.

In the light of what we mentioned before, it is very clear that what is going on in Yemen is, beyond any doubt, not a civil war or a struggle between two powers or the south and north, but an operation carried out by a rebellious outlaw group that refuses to come under the canopy of constitutional legitimacy and seeks to fragment the homeland and unity, abort unity and democracy, and return to the time of division and authoritarian role and the time of pre-22 May 1990. This is a battle we have no choice but to fight. It was dictated on us by those who took terrorism and violence as a profession and who have exercised suppression, plunder, and the violation of all human rights throughout their long criminal history, and those who were intoxicated by devious Communist ideology.

It must be clear that any solution that returns the homeland to the time of fragmentation and authoritarian role and the single party system is out of question. All fraternal states must realize that the matter is not a struggle between parties over power, but a struggle between the entire people and the elements of insurgency and division who violate law and order.

There is a type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee and he calls God to witness about what is in his heart, yet is he the most contentious of enemies. [Koranic verse]

Foreign Minister Says Arab League Session 'Unjustified'

NC0705080994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0627 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah stated that the Arab League's emergency meeting to discuss sending Arab forces to disengage Yemen's combatants is unjustified, noting that Yemen's situation is an internal affair and not a conflict between two separate states.

In an interview with the BBC today, he said limited fighting is now taking place in Abyan and Lahij provinces between the government forces and what he termed as a group of the separatist forces.

He said Scud missiles had been used against Sanaa and other cities in the north and that aircraft from the south had raided the capital Sanaa. He added that of the aircraft that had raided the capital and other cities ten were shot down.

He said the decision to dismiss Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid was permitted by the constitution, which empowers the State Council to make such decisions.

Arab League Secretary Phones Basindwah

NC0705193794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid telephoned Foreign Minister Ahmad Salim Basindwah to inform him of the resolution passed earlier today by an Arab League extraordinary session on Yemen.

Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to the Arab League secretary general, has stated that Basindwah pointed out that Yemen welcomes the Arab League's resolution. Basindwah voiced Yemen's readiness to receive a delegation from the Arab League's General Secretariat and to adopt the necessary measures as soon as possible to secure the arrival of the delegation in Sanaa.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has formed a high-level delegation from the League's Secretariat led by Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general for military affairs, and assigned it to exert efforts to stop the fighting there, but the closure of the Sanaa airport precluded the arrival of the delegation.

During the telephone conversation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid underscored the interest of all member states to end the fighting and find an appropriate settlement of the Yemeni crisis that could ensure the unity, security, and stability of Yemen.

Reports of Arab League's Plan To Visit Denied

JN0905054494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah has denied radio and news agency reports that an Arab League delegation will arrive in Sanaa to mediate a cease-fire. The brother foreign minister objected to the Arab League meeting to discuss an internal Yemeni affair, viewing such a meeting as a serious precedent that could extend to other Arab countries in the future. The brother foreign minister emphasized that what is taking place in Yemen is just a confrontation by the legitimate authorities of a rebel group that has deviated from constitutional legitimacy.

GPC's al-'Ansi Rejects Arab Intervention

PM1005143094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 94 p2

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, member of the Political Bureau of the General People's Congress, by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, member of the General Committee (Political Bureau) of the General People's Congress [GPC] and head of its General Department, has announced that the Sanaa government and people reject any Arab military intervention, and called on the Arab states to stop their media vituperation.

Yemen, he said, will solve its own problems and the battles will settle the situation. The Yemeni official arrived in Damascus two days ago to meet with Yemeni leaders and figures and with Syrian officials to explain the explosive situation in his country and convey his party's views on the situation.

Al-'Ansi said he did not believe that the unity [of Yemen] was at an end because "unity is the fate and destiny of the Yemeni people. That is what we will fight for." He added that intervention by Arab forces would mean promotion of secession. Our unity, he said, is not a unity between two peoples to warrant comparison with the Syrian-Egyptian unity. Yemen has been united since the beginning of time.

He also said: "We do not want to be carried away with the Western and Arab media which are now claiming that there is civil war. That is a misconception. What is taking place in Yemen is not civil war. A civil war is a war between members of the public or between tribes, sects, or parties."

What is going on, he emphasized, is fighting between armed forces upholding constitutional legitimacy and forces rebelling against legitimacy "and we consider that to be military mutiny which must be destroyed by military means."

Then, speaking tactically, he said that "the civil war description applies to some southern governorates where there is a conflict in the governorates of Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramaut, Lahij, and Aden between the people there, between those supporting the unity line and the renegade secessionist forces of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]."

[Al-Ustuwani] Would you bet on anyone in the south?

[Al-'Ansi] Yes, we bet on the unionist forces within the YSP and we bank on them to settle the issue and to rebel against the leadership which we do not consider to be legitimate. In Yemen, the army which is fighting the renegade and secessionist forces is being described by news agencies and the media as the northern army. It is not the northern army. It is the army of unity and it includes people from the south and the north. The opposing forces, which they describe as southern, include elements from the north and the south.

The north's big wager is on the unionist forces in Aden and in the armed forces. Currently there are reports that Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and large groups loyal to former southern President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad are beginning to respond to YSP appeals and take up arms inside Aden. Battles are raging in Lahij, Radfan, al-Dali', Mukayris, and Abyan. There is a conflict between the unionists and the secessionists. But there is no fighting in Ibb, Ta'izz, or Sanaa. There is no fighting between the people nor between one force and another there.

[Al-Ustuwani] What, in your view, is the solution?

[Al-'Ansi] It is to uphold the constitution, the will of the people, and constitutional legitimacy. What is now being said about Arab mediation is a thing of the past and no longer valid. If, in a calm atmosphere, the mediations in Amman and Salalah failed, what would happen against a background of military conflict?

I urge the Arab states to refrain from mediation because they only want to take positions in the media. There are more of such states but they know that it would be futile

to intervene because when guns speak, reason disappears. I urge the states now initiating mediations to look for something else to do. We Yemenis are sensitive people. Above all, we say to those who want to exploit the current war by internationalizing the issue or by sending Arab forces, or anything else, we say frankly that, throughout history, Yemen has been the graveyard of invaders. That is why we reject intervention.

What scares us about this talk of sending forces and of mediation is that they are talking about Egyptian mediation and dispatch of forces to disengage the warring parties. That is a thing of the past. The Egyptians raised it two weeks ago and a month ago but we rejected it because the presence of forces would mean partition and revival of the secession. We tell them: Play another game, for that is out of the question as far as we are concerned.

[Al-Ustuwani] So, in your view, what is the alternative solution?

[Al-'Ansi] They should leave us alone and let us act and solve our own problems by military or political means. They would then have a clear conscience.

[Al-Ustuwani] Do you believe that the solution lies in the disappearance of the current leaderships?

[Al-'Ansi] Why disappearance of the leaderships? The solution hs been spelled out in the House of Representatives. It used the legitimate card and dismissed 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad from their posts in the state as Presidential Council members. That is a part of the solution.

As far as the north is concerned we have invoked constitutional legitimacy and the people's will. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is there by popular demand. When the people tell 'Ali Salim al-Bid to go then he must go. But for him to impose a rule of fire and the sword on the people, exploit the crisis, and, against a background of mediation, sidestep the results we have achieved for our people, that is totally rejected. It is not a personal matter between 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid. I am not revealing a secret when I say that some members of the Yemeni House of Representatives have proposed two names for membership of the Presidential Council to replace 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad. They are (former southern President) 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi. These are two patriotic figures with a formidable struggle record, respected by the Yemeni people. (It is well known that the Presidential Council consists of five members who are: 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and Salim Salih Muhammad).

[Al-Ustuwani] Do you believe that the pledge and accord document could still be implemented or should a new document or a new solution be considered?

[Al-'Ansi] The document is still suitable as far as we are concerned but the mechanism must change. Once 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad are out and are replaced in the Presidential Council by others, matters begin to crystallize and solutions to be implemented.

[Al-Ustuwani] So you are against the war decision?

[Al-'Ansi] Nobody wants war. It was "force majeure." Our war was limited and the military eruptions and escalations were on a limited scale, but when this war started three days ago our forces were hit in Abyan, the central security units in Aden were besieged and hit, and the power station in Dhummar was suddenly hit to disrupt the power supply to Sanaa, and the camps in Dhummar were hit. It was premeditated aggression. The Yemeni Army (northern) could not possibly remain idle. The war was imposed on us and we are fighting it in defense of legitimacy and to strike at the centers of mutiny.

I wish to stress that in many of the current battles, the main parties involved are not northern and southern forces but forces of mutiny and popular forces now fighting and resisting the rebels in the southern governorates.

[Al-Ustuwani] According to some reports, the northern forces have reached the outskirts of Aden. Do you believe it is possible to take control of Aden?

[Al-'Ansi] God willing, the situation will certainly be decided and control will be gained, and the brothers will lay down their arms. If they want destruction for their country, then they should continue their aggression but we ask them to lay down their arms and to stop the war.

[Al-Ustuwani] What is the purpose of besieging Aden?

[Al-'Ansi] To bring them down, arrest them, and refer them to trial because they are the ones who triggered the war.

[Al-Ustuwani] Are the north Yemeni forces fighting fit, enough to settle the situation in Aden?

[Al-'Ansi] It is not just a question of fitness. We are fighting for what is right and we are the stronger in that respect. We are fighting for a cause. I am optimistic that Aden will be brought under control very soon, not because we are the stronger in authority and in the Army but because the people are against mutiny and secession.

[Al-Ustuwani] If Aden is brought under control, what would be the steps to follow?

[Al-'Ansi] (Defense Minister) Haytham Qasim will be referred to trial according to the Presidential Council's decision, because he is to blame for the war. Those responsible for the Dhummar and 'Imran massacres will also be referred to trial. Regarding the other brothers in the south, the people have dismissed them from the leadership, but 'Ali Salim al-Bid cannot be dismissed

from the post of party secretary general. What is important is that the party should be a party in the full sense of the word, without militia, without forces, and without an iron fist. There should be a peaceful assumption of authority. That is what we and the Yemeni people want.

Spokesman Expresses 'Surprise' Over Media Coverage

JN0805181594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] An official media spokesman has expressed surprise at some of the foreign media coverage of current developments in Yemen, which he said used inexact phrases that do not fit the new political and geographical reality in the united Yemen. These media organizations, he said, speak of a conflict between north and south and northern and southern forces, while, in reality, there is a single state and a single constitutional legitimacy. The military operations in some governorates of the Republic of Yemen are not pitting two systems of government or two states against each other. They are confrontations between the regular forces of the united government of Yemen and secessionist rebels defying legitimacy and law and order.

The spokesman said he regretted that certain Arab media are making the same mistake, using the same phrases that reflect the former state of division, which existed before 22 May 1990, after which date Yemen was reunified and the Republic of Yemen proclaimed. The spokesman hoped the media, particularly the Arab, would be more accurate and observe the official designations.

Russian Foreign Ministry Calls For Cease-Fire

EA1005190694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The leadership of federal Russia has called on the two sides fighting in Yemen to immediately halt all military operations. It said in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry that whatever the differences between the disputing parties and whatever ends they had in mind could not constitute a justification for bloodshed and fratricidal strife or the suffering of the Yemeni people, nor justify the destruction of what is new.

Opposition Groups Urge End to Fighting, Destruction

PM0905151594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sons of Yemen League and Unionist Grouping: Appeal To Stop 'Dirty War'"]

[Text] Aden, AL-HAYAH—The Sons of Yemen League and the Yemeni Unionist Grouping have appealed to Arab kings and leaders, Muslim scholars and wise men, and leaders of the new world order, urging them to "intervene by exerting pressure and influence and using mutual ties to halt the Yemeni war." The league called for the severing of political and economic relations with the Yemeni leaders if they do not respond to the appeals to stop the fighting. It said that they are "pursuing only their personal interests."

A statement issued from Aden yesterday by the league's leader, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ja'fari; its secretary general, Muhsin Bin-Farid; and the Unionist Grouping's secretary general, 'Umar al-Jawi, said that what is happening in Yemen now is "the result of the way in which the country is being run. Here are the country's leaders destroying it, its Army, and its people." They described what is happening as a "catastrophe." It said that the Yemeni leaders are acting "as though they are the enemies of the country and its people."

The statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, added: "We know that our position could expose us and our party to danger. But we do not care about what could afflict us. We are interested in our country and our people, because we know we are worth nothing without a secure homeland. We also know that what the gangs' leaders are doing will not spare a country or a people, because their only concern is their own interests.... They are firing their missiles and dropping their bombs everywhere, no matter who is killed or what is destroyed."

The statement said that the Yemeni Army "is destroying itself, while the leaders continue to destroy their country's infrastructure. We doubt whether some of them feel they belong to this country or to our religion, Islam, or have any human feelings."

The statement urged "that this dirty war be stopped and innocent citizens rescued. If the leaders refuse to stop this war, we urge you to sever your political and economic relations with them and help our people to surmount the catastrophe being inflicted by these leaders who are taking the country into the unknown."

The statement issued by the league and the grouping went on: "In the name of God, brotherhood, and humanity, we appeal to you to move swiftly before it is too late. Because it is in no one's interests for our citizens to continue to be killed and our country destroyed.... If the country's leaders lose their mind, someone must stand by the people, who are suffering terror and starvation."

The statement urged the Army to stop the fighting and not to respond to any orders to launch attacks.

Cabinet Discusses 'Important' Oil, Electricity Issues

JN0805124894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting today under Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister industry minister, and acting prime minister.

The Council of Ministers reviewed developments in the general situation in the country since the rebelling secessionist gang, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], exploded the situation militarily with the objective of returning the country to pre-22 May 1990 status.

During this meeting, the Council of Ministers praised the heroism of the Armed Forces soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers, the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. The Council also praised the people's rallying around these forces.

The Council of Ministers commended all the decisions and legitimate measures adopted by the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives.

The Council of Ministers discussed a number of important issues, particularly issues related to supply, trade, electricity, and oil, and took the necessary measures on them in order to reinforce the course of normal life in all governorates.

Corporation Director: Basic Foodstuffs Available

JN1105083294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0611 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah al-Hadrami, director general of the Yemeni Economic Corporation, by 'Abd-al-Malik al-'Ayzari—live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Hadrami] Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would just like to reassure the brother citizens that the basic foodstuffs are available. Ships are arriving at the ports with all kinds of foodstuffs including rice, sugar, flour, wheat, milk, and other things. These are being distributed all over the republic.

As for our corporation, its branches are fully open to our citizens so that they may obtain their needs easily and at official prices. If there are difficulties in receiving any commodity in areas where there are no branches of the corporation, the latter loads trucks and sells these materials directly from the trucks. Let the people be reassured. The corporation's branches contain all the basic commodities. The corporation is at the service of all and during all circumstances.

[Al-'Azari] Thank you, brother 'Abdallah. Would you like to offer any advice in this regard?

[Al-Hadrami] I just want to reassure the citizens and tell them that the country is in good shape and Yemen is proceeding from one victory to another. The available foodstuffs, whether in the stores or on the road to the stores or arriving at ports are sufficient. There are no shortages or disorders in supplies. The greedy merchants will be made to account for their actions. The Supply and Trade Ministry has already warned them. Citizens should cooperate with the state in this regard and must report all those who tamper with the prices and those who exploit the situation and hoard foodstuffs.

[Al-'Ayzari] This means there is no shortage of any basic foodstuff?

[Al-Hadrami] No, everything is available. The strategic reserves are there and the ships are arriving, and the branches are full. Everything is available.

Sanaa Under Curfew, Faces Fuel Shortages

NC0805205294 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Amman, May 8 (AFP)—A nightly curfew has been imposed on the Yemeni capital Sanaa which is also facing severe fuel shortages, an evacuee who fled the city told AFP here.

The evacuee, who refused to be identified, said long queues form daily at petrol stations and the public transport system had been virtually brought to a standstill.

The curfew begins nightly at 9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m, after President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared a state of emergency Thursday.

At night anti-aircraft salvos light up the sky searching out attacking southern planes, which have launched several air raids on the city, the Arab national said after landing on an evacuation flight in Jordan.

He added that a total news black-out had been imposed since fighting broke out four days ago between rival army forces, and amid reports that southern troops had fired Scud missiles at the capital.

He was not able to say whether there were any victims.

So far there has been no official casualty toll in the fighting which erupted Thursday, but an Islamic party supporting the president said Saturday 150 had died.

The evacuee was among 170 people, mainly UN personnel, flown out of Sanaa Sunday to Amman on a special flight.

Hundreds of foreigners have fled the war which has pitted Salih against his southern rival Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

House of Representatives Discusses Oil Issues

JN1005131394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met in an ordinary session this morning under brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the House's Speakership Council. The meeting was held in the context of the third round of the second phase of the council's first term.

At the outset of the session, the deputies reviewed and ratified the minutes of the previous meeting. They then discussed oil issues in terms of finance, administration, accounting, and consumption.

The House referred the matter to its Financial Affairs and Economic Subcommittees for scrutiny and to collect data and information before submitting a detailed report.

Today's session was attended by brother 'Adil Khurshid, undersecretary at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and 'Askar 'Ali al-Dahiri, chairman of the Technical and Consultative Office at the ministry.

Radio Gives Biography of New Naval Commander

JN1105063294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 94

[Republican Decree No. 22 [as heard] issued at the presidency in Sanaa on on 10 May 1994—read by announcer]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, cognizant of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Law No. 67 of 1991 on service in the Armed Forces and Security, and upon the recommendation of the brother defense minister and the acting prime minister, and after the approval of the Council of Ministers and the endorsement of the Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article I.

Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hasani shall be appointed commander of the Naval Forces.

Article II.

This decree will be valid as of date of issue and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 30 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 10 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, acting prime minister

Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, minister of defense

Following is the biography of Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah Muhammad Nasir al-Hasani:

Born in 1949. Place of birth: Abyan Governorate, Mudiyah District.

He joined a number of specialized military courses in the naval field in Britain, Uganda, and the former USSR. He holds a master's degree from the Naval Academy. He assumed several leading posts and jobs, including member of the staff command of the Naval Forces and Coastal Defense before the unity, commander of the Naval Forces and Coastal Defense before the unity, and adviser to the defense minister after the unity. He was one of the strugglers of the liberation war. He was awarded several medals.

Biography of New Defense Minister Noted

JN1105065494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday chaired a meeting of the Defense Ministry Command and the General Staff Command, in the presence of brother Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the minister of interior, and Staff Brigadier General, 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the minister of defense. [passage omitted]

Staff Brig. Gen. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the defense minister, yesterday took the constitutional oath before brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, after he was appointed defense minister.

Following is the biography of Defense Minister Staff Brig Gen. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi:

He was born in 1944 in the Abyan Governorate, the al-Ghadir area. He received a military education in Egypt, Britain, and the former USSR and holds a master's degree from the Nasir Academy in Egypt and the [word indistinct] academy in the former USSR.

He held several leading military posts, including the chief of staff of the Armored Corps, chief of staff of the War College, commander of operations sector, director of supplies and logistics, and deputy chief of staff for supply and logistics. After the reunification of the homeland on 22 May 1990, he was appointed adviser at the Presidential Council. He was one of the strugglers of the liberation war. He was awarded several medals. He is the father of five children.

Former President From South Comments on Events

NC0905061794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 May 94

[Interview with former President of South Yemen 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, in Damascus, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Do you have a new initiative to resolve the Yemeni crisis now that the situation has become dangerously complicated?

[Muhammad] I am against the dialogue of rifles, tanks, aircraft, guns, and rockets. I support the fraternal and peaceful dialogue that could lead to a solution and possibly to a relaxation in the Yemeni situation. I made some proposals and stated some ideas to contain the crisis in Yemen last year and this year. I made my latest proposals one month ago. Regrettably, this initiative and these sincere and honest efforts collided with some irresponsible stances.

[Abu-al-Majd] Who do you mean?

[Muhammad] I cannot say now who is responsible. But it was not only my initiative that was rejected, but also other Arab and international initiatives that could have contained the crisis in Yemen had there been a positive response to them. Battles are raging today and everyone will be harmed by these battles in which every weapon of destruction—naval, land, air weapons, and Scud missiles—is used. The winner in these battles is a loser. This is why I say that returning to understanding and dialogue in Yemen is the only way to solve the country's crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] Who is responsible for making the situation in Yemen so grave?

[Muhammad] Everyone is responsible for the eruption of the fighting and for the Yemeni people's tragedy. We are not discussing who fired the first bullet or who caused the crisis to erupt. We are discussing the consequences of this mad and destructive war that could damage the Yemeni people's gains, security, stability, and also the stability of the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Now that the situation has erupted in this way, what, in your view, as a son of Yemen and as an observer who is remote from events, is the means of stopping this bloodshed? Can you specify?

[Muhammad] I first call for halting the bloodshed in Yemen and urge caring about Yemen's unity. I reject secession and the fighting in Yemen and advocate a return to the dialogue that could contain the crisis. Some people might ask with whom can we have a dialogue today. I tell them that we can search for the parties that might reach an understanding and solve the crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] Who are these parties?

[Muhammad] I do not want to name names but it is known that there are three parties in the ruling coalition. There is also the dialogue committee that comprises the political forces in Yemen.

[Abu-al-Majd] But this committee has achieved nothing. It was the one that drew up the Pledge and Accord Document but failed to achieve the required result. How can it achieve anything now when battles are raging?

[Muhammad] I agree with you that the committee achieved the Pledge and Accord Document. But the committee has played no role in implementing this document.

[Abu-al-Majd] Was this the fault of the committee or of the parties to the current conflict?

[Muhammad] I believe the coalition committee is not responsible for the nonimplementation, because the three ruling parties are the decisionmakers in Yemen.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you prepared to visit Yemen and work out a new solution?

[Muhammad] I am quite prepared to visit Yemen and help the leadership find a solution if this would serve the public interest and the supreme interest of the Yemeni people. I am also prepared to offer sacrifices for the sake of the Yemeni people.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you think the current situation in Yemen dictates that you should visit Yemen now?

[Muhammad] The situation dictates that all the good people, whether Yemenis, Arab brothers, or friends, should be there now. I believe that every concerted effort must be made to enable Yemen to ride out its crisis and ordeal and end the bloodshed and destruction.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you prepared to coordinate positions with some Arab sides, like Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] or others, to take a new initiative to end the situation?

[Muhammad] Personally, I am ready to carry out any effort, whether with my brothers in Egypt or the UAE, any effort that is bound to contain the crisis and solve the problem in Yemen. I am also ready to coordinate efforts on the Arab and international levels to resolve the crisis in Yemen. But what matters is that the political leadership there should respond to such initiatives, because many initiatives taken by our brothers and friends did not succeed in view of the various stances.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some people say that Arab forces should be sent there to disengage the two warring sides. But the political leadership in Sanaa said that this is an internal dispute and does not necessitate this.

[Muhammad] This proposal has [words indistinct] the views of the political leadership in Yemen. I previously stressed the need for Arab efforts and welcomed the initiative taken by Egypt and the UAE. I also welcomed the initiative carried out by the Arab League secretary general to send a committee to Yemen to follow up the developments there and help work out a solution.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you think that unity could survive amid such circumstances?

[Muhammad] The current events in Yemen will cause a deep wound in the body of Yemeni unity and in the heart of the Yemeni people, even the Arab people. This is because the unity does not only concern the Yemeni people; it concerns the entire Arab nation as well.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some people say the unity was founded on the wrong basis, because the military, economic, and political institutions did not unite. Do you concur?

[Muhammad] I would like to say that the unity [word indistinct] for the Yemeni people. But Yemen experienced difficulties, problems, and crises in the absence of unity. That is why the Yemeni leadership sought unity to avoid all these crises. But various attempts were carried out to avoid unity. I support every effort made to solve the problems that cropped up in the absence of unity. You cannot solve problems by avoiding unity. The

[words indistinct] and accord summed up the crisis in Yemen and defined the solutions to the crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of south Yemen.

[Muhammad] Many thanks to the Voice of the Arabs, the voice of the Arab nation.

Commentaries Note, React to Events Surrounding War

'Secessionist Gang' Assailed

JN0605192194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 6 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since the famous seclusion of the most famous recluse in history [reference to 'Ali Salim al-Bid's withdrawal from Sanaa to Aden in August, 1993], our country has gone through the worst crisis in its history. All nationalist forces in the Yemeni arena, above all the General People's Congress [GPC], have explored every avenues to resolve the crisis. Toward that end, and in the interest of the country's unity, the GPC offered a series of concessions. In contrast, the other side has given its party's interests precedence over all other interests.

However, the good faith inherent in these concessions was not enough to reassure the spiteful gang in the Yemeni Socialist Party as to its standing in a united, democratic, and pluralistic society. This is because, by virtue of its black and bloody history and its awareness of the manner in which the people regard the crimes it has committed against the country's worthy and struggler sons, it knew that it was bound to lose out and that the relapse into disunity was the only way for it to return to the iron-fisted rule that had ended with the proclamation of the blessed unity on 22 May, 1990.

We had thought, along with all the worthy unionists on this good land, that 27 April—the day of democracy—would put a definitive end to the claims and absurd conditions that the separatist elements within the Socialist Party used to buy time before the right circumstances arrived for putting their secessionist blueprint into practice.

The 27 April democracy introduced a new climate symbolizing a victory of the popular option of constitutional legitimacy. However, seeing that this new climate would frustrate their criminal scheme, the officials holding sway in the Socialist Party tried to think up new pretexts in a desparate attempt to create other conditions, at odds with constitutional legitimacy but suiting their separatist bent.

Using its extortionist and exploitative approach to the pro-unity forces, the party extracted a fresh string of concessions that had no basis in legitimacy. When the secessionist gang found its plan had no chance other than through war, it sparked off hostilities without the least regard for national interests.

At this critical moment in our history, the question arises as to whether this gang within the party will achieve its secession through the war it ignited. If the military situation as it stands is any guide, then unity is here to say. The Republic of Yemen's Armed Forces, with all its corps, are standing shoulder to shoulder, poised to defend the gains most cherished by the people. The coming few days will unmask the ugly face of the gang of apostacy and secession, which is now harvesting all the distress it has sown in our benevolent land. Death to them, life to the homeland and unity.

YSP Held Responsible

JN0805193094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1654 GMT 8 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear citizens, faithful sons of our people: The idiots and reckless leaders of the forces of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] have ignited the fires of this fierce war out of their yearning for blood because they were raised on shedding blood. However, when your valiant Armed Forces, the soldiers of the homeland and the revolution, and the protectors of unity and legitimacy, began to confront them, they were the first to escape and the first to be defeated on the fields of honor and in the arenas of legitimate and sacred defense of the homeland's achievements and the crown of unity, which is shining over the homeland's heads in pride and glory.

Yes, the cowards of the party and shedders of blood, the followers of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and murderer Haytham Qasim Tahir, have fled. They are addicted to the smell of gunpowder and the sound of gunfire, and are used to fleeing and retreating in front of the good forces, the protectors of our homeland, and its valiant heroes in the heroic Armed Forces and in its brigades, which are deployed all over the beloved homeland to protect the most precious achievements of the homeland and to give to the constitutional legitimacy and the Yemeni masses' options the right to survival, steadfastness, and existence.

Since the evil gang in the YSP and the clique of apostasy and partition is entirely wrong, the sons of our Armed Forces have not relented and will never relent to confront this gang's evil schemes. Here are the troops of our one army, which this gang sought to throw into a losing battle against the legitimacy, are joining the ranks of this legitimacy one group after another in order to join the ranks of right and the trenches of the sacred duty of defending the achievements of the people against the plans that are backed by filthy money to sabotage and destroy the homeland.

Victories in South Noted

JN0905100094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 May 94

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] O beloved ones in dear Aden, O beloved ones in steadfast Abyan, O beloved ones in glorious Shabwah, O beloved ones in all governorates of the cherished Republic of Yemen, O brothers and beloved ones in this good land: The gang of apostasy and secession has long made you taste the bitterness of all types of woes and agony. This criminal rebelling gang, which has abandoned all noble values and honorable manners, has been spitting out the venom of its hidden grudge into the body of the one Yemen for over two and a half decades. Today, and at this decisive moment in the history of our people, it is pouring the fire of its grudge onto the populated cities, thinking that it will frighten the people and scare the army of unity and constitutional legitimacy, which is advancing toward it like a surging sea.

O honorable compatriots in the southern and eastern governorates: Your sons and brothers in the army of unity and democracy and constitutional legitimacy are scoring one victory after another. They are continuing their march toward the dens of this renegade gang. Help them achieve the missions you entrusted to them—the mission of cutting off the fingers that seek to disrupt the unity of Yemen, both land and man. It is for the sake of this unity that fathers and forefathers have struggled and sacrificed. It is the unity for which pure blood was spilled and chaste souls were offered. It is unity which restored the smile to all on 22 May 1990 and over which all hearts rejoiced. It is unity which we will protect with our souls and the pupils of our eyes. The forces of evil and apostasy will not be able to undermine the sacredness of our cherished unity for they are too weak to even harm the hair on a camel's back.

Sanaa Radio Urges Aden Citizens To Action

JN1005151994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 May 94

[Unattributed commentary; from the "Issues and Events" feature]

[Text] While the forces of unity and democracy pursue their military operations against the units following the orders of the forces of apostasy and secession within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], which have rebelled against the constitutional legitimacy, more officers and soldiers who have been misled continue to join the ranks of their brothers in the brigades defending unity and constitutional legitimacy.

Citizens in all governorates of the republic were happy to meet the officers and soldiers who joined the forces of legitimacy, as well as those who have given themselves up to these forces, which are heroically and faithfully waging the battles of honor to protect unity and defend constitutional legitimacy.

It goes without saying that the sons of our people are confident and certain that the end of the gang of apostasy and secession is close. While we say this, we expect the citizens in Aden not only to help the forces of unity, which are on the verge of entering Aden, but to prevent the gang of apostasy and secession from escaping and to arrest it so that it will receive the punishment it deserves.

We urge the citizens in Aden to arrest the gang of apostasy and secession, which has sowed corruption and exterminated defenseless people and from whose repression and injustice thousands have suffered over many decades, because we are confident that the inhabitants of Aden yearn for salvation from those who have transformed their lives into an inferno of misery, forcing the people into deprivation and poverty. We do not doubt for one moment that the unionists within the YSP, who have experienced persecution and oppression at the hands of a handful whose code of conduct consists of physical liquidation of those who protest or criticize, will also seriously participate in pursuing the gang of apostasy and corruption, and will exert the utmost effort to arrest them, given that this is a national duty dictated by genuine citizenship, and the affiliation to the Arab and Muslim Yemeni people who are committed to unity and democracy, and whose sons are bound together by the strongest bonds since early history.

We thank God for the successes of the Armed Forces defending unity and we wish them success in their military operations to bring down the strongholds of the units taking orders from the gang of apostasy and secession. We also express appreciation to the officers and soldiers who continue to join the ranks of their brothers who defend unity and constitutional legitimacy for their concern to stand where the people want them to stand. National duty dictates that they carry arms for the sake of unity, to protect democracy, and impose the respect of constitutional legitimacy.

All the citizens in Aden, whose outskirts have been reached by the forces defending unity and constitutional legitimacy, are dutybound to prevent the escape of the gang of apostasy and secession, which has rebelled against constitutional legitimacy and which has ignited an all-out war to drown the sons of the one homeland in blood and to sow destruction and death in all its parts. But God has frustrated their hopes. This gang has only a few hours left before it faces the shameful fate it deserves.

Salih Confers With German Ambassador 7 May

JN0705152394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office today the German ambassador to our country.

They reviewed many fields of cooperation and issues of interest to both friendly countries, as well as the ongoing developments in our country.

During the meeting, the brother chairman lauded the level of bilateral cooperation and bilateral relations. He also voiced appreciation for the generous German aid to the development march in our country, and stressed our country's eagerness to enhance bilateral relations and expand the scope of cooperation in the interest of both friendly peoples.

Trade Unions Urge Workers To Defend 'Honor'

LD1105093594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] A plenary session was held yesterday at the headquarters of the General Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic held by the public trade unions and the labor council in the province of Aden under the chairmanship of brother Ghazi Salih Mahdi, chairman of the General Federation of the republic's trade unions. It was devoted to consider the developments witnessed by our country as a result of the civil war the drums of which were beaten by the Al- Ahmar military separatist bloody gang with the aim of destroying the homeland, aborting the democratic options, and killing the pledge and accord document.

The meeting decided to set up three working committees to face up to the consequences of this all out and destructive war. They were the civil defense committee, the general mobilization committee, and the supplies and services committee. The meeting also decided to call on the workers to [words indistinct] donate blood to save the life of the wounded who were subjected to the inhuman bombardment and call on all personnel working in the labor and production administrations to donate one day's wages to save [words indistinct] as a result of the inhuman bombardment by the al-Ahmar separatist clan.

At the end of the meeting a communique was released expressing deep concern at this destructive civil war which was declared and carried out by the murderer 'Ali Abdallah Salih, the leader of the hirelings and traitors, against the Yemeni people, against unity, democracy and against the pledge and accord document. The communique stressed that this war which was declared by the tyrants destroys everything, and kills children, women, old people and men. [Words indistinct] the Yemeni people supported the pledge and accord document and stressed the building of the modern Yemeni state which is rejected by the al-Ahmar clan.

The statement called on all Yemen's workers to defend their lives and honor and rally around the forces of unity and the [pledge and acccord] document which fight with fierceness for a unified democratic Yemen which is developed and founded on justice, equal citizenship, and the building of the state of order, law, security, and stability.

The General Federation of Trade Unions hailed the forces of unity and democracy in all battlefronts and their defiance of death in defense of freedom and [word indistinct] and in defense of land and property and their heroic resistance to the treason of the bloody gangs of al-Ahmar. The Federation called on the soldiers, officers and NCO's who are lured by this lying and tyrant clan to stop fighting their brothers' stance and common interests, to reject the orders of this clan, and to join the people's ranks and their brothers fighting for [word indistinct] and salvation to get rid of the tyrant armies and point their weapons toward [word indistinct] the gang of al-Ahmar.

The Federation called on the Arab and international communities and the international organizations dealing with human rights to intervene immediately to stop the bloodshed, give a helping hand to the victims, and save the Yemeni people from the inferno of the fire which was started by the al-Ahmar gang against all the members of the people and the homeland.

Motorists Urged To Carry Vehicle Ownership Documents

JN1005064694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 94

[Statement by the Interior Ministry; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry hereby announces to citizens throughout the governorates of the Republic of Yemen that they must abide by instructions to carry all documentation proving ownership of the cars they drive. The ministry stresses that no vehicle may be driven unless it meets pertinent legal requirements. The ministry agencies will carry out continuous inspection campaigns to seize violators. Warning against the gravity of ignoring these instructions, the ministry stresses that violators will be subject to stringent penalties. It hopes that all brother citizens will cooperate with and respond to these instructions.

Arab Nation's 'Enemies' Said Behind War in Yemen

U.S., Saudi Arabia Roles Noted

JN1005082694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—The newspaper BABIL stresses that the United States and Saudi Arabia are nurturing the secessionist trends to fragment Yemen's unity because of the honorable position its government and people took in support of Iraq during the great Mother of Battles.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The Arab nation's enemies want to intimidate the Arab masses with the bloody fighting in Yemen in a desperate attempt to bury the dreams of unity and the Arabs' aspiration to achieve their comprehensive unity.

BABIL concludes by saying: The unity which the Yemenis have built with their blood and sweat is invulnerable to fragmentation. That unity will remain the cure for the wounds of sabotage and treachery.

The paper stresses that unity and unionists will always triumph.

U.S. Intentions Detailed

JN0705115894 Baghdad INA in English 0845 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, May 7, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily has stressed that the current events and the killing in Yemen have been arranged by the United States of America and its satellites from the Arab reactionary countries.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH said that America wanted form the killing in Yemen to seize control the oil in the north and the south of the country at the same time and the current fighting and the plan of its expansion and rooting is a direct American act which cannot be implemented by the reactionary countries which move within the American orbit only.

The paper added that the current American plan in Yemen is to preserve the formal Yemeni unity to secure the control on all Yemeni oil. It went on to say that the regretted events in Yemen were no more than implementing a general American-Zionist plan.

The paper strongly denounced the double standered of the American stand towards the Yemeni unity. It also pointed out to the Saudi conspiracy against the Yemeni unity following Sanaa joining to the Arab Cooperation Council.

'Contradictory Regimes' Fuel Conflict

JN0805075094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—Under the headline "A Viewpoint on Yemen's Events", the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published an editorial today. It says: No one imagined that matters would lead to a war in this way, as if the war was taking place among enemies, when they are, in fact, brothers.

In its editorial today by Barzan al-Tikriti, the newspaper adds: Just as the majority [words indistinct] the declaration of unity, this saddening and painful event was not expected to take place between brothers in the way we see and hear from the mass media.

The writer explained in his article that what is taking place could be viewed as a result of a relationship between two contradictory regimes that were placed within a framework of unity about which many people seeking or opposing the concept of unity voiced their doubts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out in its editorial that what has caused the all-out war is that some people view the concept of unity as something that should be complete, or should lead to a destructive, all-out war as the only alternative. This is, of course, wrong in the view of everyone who honestly wants unity

The editorial says that in order to make unity true and to guarantee it, the people should, before the leaders and officials, believe in it, understand it, and adhere to it. This, the newspaper says, will prevent differences among officials from affecting, threatening, and undermining unity.

Ba'th Party Urges Preservation of Yemeni Unity

JN0905080994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 94

[Statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command on 8 May; place not given]

[Text] Sons of our glorious Arab nation; sons of unified, struggling, ancient Yemen: Four years ago, in May 1990, our Arab nation received the declaration of the unity of the two parts of Yemen—a serious, sound step—with overwhelming joy and optimism that the unity of Yemen would support the pan-Arab struggle and be another addition to its major achievements: the struggling intifadah in Palestine and the principles of the Mother of Battles following the great confrontation.

The nation pinned high hopes on this unionist step because it rested on genuine popular and national support. The nation also took pride in the struggle of the sons of this time-honored part of the greater homeland in order to regain the unity of their homeland and bring about a new, happy birth to Yemen that would rid Yemen of the traces of the divisions that distorted its

national and pan-Arab character. The nation also viewed with high appreciation the readiness demonstrated at the time to rise to the level of historic action that, alone, is enough to guarantee the soundness and success of any unionist step.

The climate was favorable for this unity to proceed amid national and pan-Arab challenges, equipped with popular will and determination to overcome difficulties that could obstruct its march to build a unified, prosperous Yemen that serves pan-Arab interests. This step came in response to objective needs and aspirations cherished by everybody to transcend long decades of loss and foreign colonialism and influence. These aspirations were supported by popular will and determination to rebuild the political, social, economic, and cultural life in a manner that ensured promoting unity, overcoming backwardness, and making use of the lessons of previous unity attempts. This was meant to immunize the new step against the dangers of the return of personal whims and interests that represented fragmentation and backwardness and were the main cause for fragmentation on the level of the Arab nation.

Great and intensive intellectual and practical efforts were exerted to enhance the foundations of Yemeni unity so that it would derive motivation from the national and pan-Arab spirit of the people of Yemen to develop, succeed, and express the readiness of the sons of this people to defend it with all that is precious to them.

However, the remnants of the mentality of fragmentation and its interests, as well as the external forces of intervention, have played a role in obstructing well-meaning efforts and in sowing the seeds of discord and premeditated intentions to derail the unionist step. It is not easy for the nation to watch this bloody scene that jeopardizes the unity and the hopes pinned on it. The Yemeni unity revived the nation's hopes and inspired optimism on the part of the Yemeni people. However, the bloody incidents now threaten all of this and threaten the shared national destiny of the people of Yemen.

Sons of Arabism in Yemen: Unity has a permanent rule, namely, the need for everybody to rise above their personal whims and interests and narrow calculations. Unity cannot be achieved and will not last as a factor of strength unless it takes inspiration from the spirit of the people and determines to contribute to the unity of the nation. Thus, unity cannot achieve its objectives unless it daily discovers formulas to embody popular will in building a prosperous homeland that achieves its national objectives through integration with the nation's objectives.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has always viewed itself as the party of unity and has always worked to develop the idea of unity. The party, whose political, organizational, and militant course is based on the interest of the nation as a whole, finds itself—vis-a-vis what is taking place in Yemen—dutybound to caution against the serious peril that endangers the Arab destiny.

The contemporary pan-Arab and unionist struggle march records that the Ba'th Party has offered generous sacrifices and martyrs for unity and that it gives priority to unity and the unionist feeling. From this premise, the Ba'th Party announces to the nation and the Yemeni people that it supports unity and that unity is the most important and most cherished objective. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party announces its solidarity with the struggler Yemeni people for the sake of safeguarding their unity, and rejects every reason, act, or justfication that encroaches on the entity of unity.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party appeals to all the national forces operating in the Yemeni arena, and the Arab forces throughout the Arab homeland, to stand with Yemen's unity and with the Yemeni people, and against all foreign attempts to interfere in the affairs of Yemeni unity.

O Yemenis who are genuinely patriotic and pan-Arab: We support you in confronting this danger which threatens the Yemeni national destiny. We appeal to you to abide by unity as a sacred slogan to confront this tribulation and end the sedition and the conspiracy against unity. Let abidance by unity now be a yardstick to which all of you will resort to judge the behavior of individuals and groups and to judge their stands and whether these stands are close or remote from you, and from the unionist objectives and aspirations you have for your country. Only with a national spirit and pan-Arab awareness can the sons of Yemen bury the conspiracy against their national unity and tackle the bloody incidents with a determination to transform the blood that is being shed into lessons for the assimilation of Yemeni unity and a price for moving out of these tragic events into a state of affairs that will consolidate the pillars of the unionist experiment and that will enable it to better express its national and pan-Arab essence. That's why we call on all the active and good forces and the masses of our Yemeni people who are famous for their national and pan-Arab stands to confront all that threatens unity.

Noble Yemeni people, let all the windows be closed in the face of the ill-winds of the conspiracy against Yemen's unity and in the face of the foreign forces which tamper with Yemen's national fate and the foreign schemes which threaten the future of Yemen and the nation. Let the will of the strugglers unite on this basis to check this bleeding and to establish a nationalist unionist spirit that will protect Yemen and its unity, and that will embody the people's determination to enhance the entity of unity that was forged by sacrifices, martyrs, and positive efforts, and the noble aspirations encompassing national and pan-Arab objectives.

Greetings to the noble and united Yemeni people. Greetings to the martyrs of the Yemeni unity and the Arab nation.

'Aziz Meets Austrian Minister, IAEA Director

JN1005120294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock in Vienna today. They discussed the obligations the UN Security Council should fulfill toward Iraq, particularly in terms of implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and lifting the unfair embargo since Iraq has implemented all pertinent clauses in Resolution 687.

They also discussed bilateral ties.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz also met with Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. They discussed the IAEA's responsibility to acknowledge what Iraq had implemented in the field as stipulated by Resolution 687 and the need to fully inform the UN Security Council of such as soon as possible, so the Security Council can assume its responsibility and immediately start considering the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 as soon as possible.

The two meetings were attended by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent envoy to the UN Headquarters in Geneva; Dr. Rahim al- Kital, Iraq's ambassador to Austria; and the deputy director of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization. Professor Zifferero and a number of assistants to the IAEA director attended the meeting for the IAEA.

Official: Russia Has 'Lost Hope' of Ending Blockade

PM1005150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 94 p 3

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Russian Official: 'We Have Lost Hope of Lifting Blockade on Iraq Soon'"]

[Text] London—A high-ranking Russian diplomatic source has told AL-HAYAH that Moscow has lost hope of lifting the blockade on Iraq soon. The source revealed that a scheduled visit to Moscow by Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Riyad al-Qaysi may not take place, as the Russians have told him they cannot receive him before 16 May "because his opposite number, Boris Kolokolov, will not be in Moscow."

The source said that the Iraqis' "interest in the visit has subsided, because they had hoped it would be made before the [UN] Security Council discusses continuing the economic sanctions against Iraq in the middle of the month."

The source pointed out that Moscow has lost hope of the Security Council changing its position, and that the council will decide to continue the sanctions, "despite the Russian-French-Chinese proposals" calling for easing the sanctions.

As is known, Moscow, Beijing, Paris, and Ankara are exerting pressure to lift or ease the blockade imposed on Iraq. But the U.S.-British position is unrelenting.

The Russian source added that two other factors have made Moscow more certain that lifting the blockade on Iraq is not easy: First, the U.S. Administration informed a high-level Russian official who visited Washington two weeks ago of its intention of continuing the sanctions against Baghdad. Second, the article written by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in THE NEW YORK TIMES a week ago, warning of the danger of lifting the blockade on Iraq.

The sources went on to say that Moscow and Paris are studying a new draft proposal to be submitted to the Security Council, calling for transcending Resolutions 706 and 712 concerning selling Iraqi oil under UN supervision. The proposal provides for increasing the quantity Baghdad is allowed to sell, namely increasing its value from $1.6 billion to $4-5 billion. But the problem is that Baghdad is not enthusiastic about the proposal. The Russian diplomat said the reason is that 60-70 percent of the revenue would not reach Iraq, but would be transferred to the Gulf war compensation fund, a part of which would be used to finance UN operations.

U.S. Urged To Pursue Different Policy Toward Iraq

JN0905103594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 May 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "Iraqi Cooperation and U.S. Hostility"]

[Text] The international community represented by the UN Security Council is expected to declare that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations under Resolution 687 and that it is essential to implement Clause 22 of the resolution permitting Iraq to export its oil, now that Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM], has submitted his report in which he affirmed Iraq's full cooperation with the commission and fulfillment of all of its obligations. However, it seems that the United States is waging a fierce campaign through its secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to block the international community's will and continue the unjust blockade against Iraq.

The Chinese representative to the Security Council has called on the Council to recognize the very positive developments represented by Iraq's implementation of the resolutions. He proposed passing a resolution on a partial lifting of the blockade. The Russian representative also spoke about the need to give Iraq the chance for further cooperation. For his part, the British representative admitted that progress is taking place and that the report which Ekeus submitted to the Council two days ago was encouraging.

According to political observers, China, France, and Russia are exerting pressure toward lifting the blockade

for "humanitarian and commercial" reasons. If we also add the British admission that Iraq is cooperating with the Security Council, it becomes clear that the United States has been left alone and is completely isolated. The international community is surrounding it from all sides to make it lift the unfair blockade on Iraq.

A quick review of what has happened, recalls to memory the odious hostility which has characterized U.S. policy. Washington has secured resolutions from the Security Council to impose a blockade on Iraq and to carry out its criminal military aggression. It has done all that in the name of the international community and international legitimacy. And now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under Resolution 687 and approved permanent monitoring under Resolution 715 and now that Rolf Ekeus has acknowledged Iraq's full cooperation with UNSCOM, Washington cannot continue resisting the will of the international community, refusing to implement Clause 22 of Resolution 687 and calling "for the need to continue the blockade against Iraq." This U.S. double standard has been exposed. It must be said that the international community cannot continue forever following this reckless U.S. policy. The international community is inclined toward adopting a rational policy that acknowledges the interests of its nations, including those of Iraq, and takes into consideration the question of international peace and stability.

The world understands that Iraq is the difficult figure in the region and that it is essential to deal with it with rationality, consideration, and good will. Any form of aggression or threat of aggression against Iraq will be useless. Iraq is strong by its symbol leader Saddam Husayn, its brave people, its experience, and great history.

In view of all that, it must be said that the United States must adopt a different policy toward Iraq, taking into consideration the will of the international community and the lessons of past experiences. Armies and fleets will not scare Iraq, and the blockade will not weaken its will.

Warren Christopher will see how the blockade will be defeated and how the will of good forces—the will of Iraq and the freedom and peace-loving peoples—will triumph.

Columnist Views Reasons Behind Christopher Article

JN1005193594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 May 94 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "More on Christopher's Article"]

[Text] Since the article written by [U.S. Secretary of State Warren] Christopher while he was in Saudi Arabia was published in the THE NEW YORK TIMES last Friday [29 April] did not add anything new to the declared U.S. stand concerning the blockade on Iraq, why then was he in such a hurry to write this article and to publish it in THE NEW YORK TIMES, of all U.S. papers?

In our humble estimation, the U.S. secretary of state wrote his article, which was full of the usual stupid U.S. fallacies and allegations, in order to reassure his allies and "hosts," the Saudi rulers, and possibly the Kuwaiti rulers as well, to convince them that another article published by THE NEW YORK TIMES, following the shooting down of the two U.S. helicopters in northern Iraq, which called for a revision of the entire U.S. policy toward Iraq, did not express the opinion of any of the U.S. decisionmaking institutions but merely the opinion of the writer himself. When the secretary of state writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES he definitely expresses the official U.S. viewpoint and the U.S. position on the blockade.

It seems to us that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers, who must have paid a handsome political and financial reward for the Christopher article, were not reassured and did not believe that what Christopher alone writes really expresses the U.S. position. In fact, they are justified in not feeling reassured, because they are not ignorant of the fact that what is written in this paper is not very far from the viewpoints of the U.S. decisionmakers, or some of them at least!

Paper: 'Hostile Leaflets' Show Enemies' Failure

JN0905173394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Who Are Those Who Neither See Nor Hear?"]

[Text] What a wonderful coincidence for us to see them issue their leaflets on the day of overwhelming joy and noble love!

What do the hostile leaflets say? Enemies and other disappointed people have begun to use these leaflets after failing to achieve their goals through other ways. They wonder if we see and hear our people. We saw and heard them, and obviously it is they who no longer hear or see as result of their failure.

The child who called God during celebrations on the leader's birthday asked me: Did they not hear me?

Did they really not hear her or see her? Did they not hear the people declaring their love for and loyalty to the beloved leader, as well as their wishes for his health and long life? Did they not see the candles of joy flickering in the spring breeze in every house, every shop, and every work site? Did they not see how the elderly, the men, the women, and the children made 28 April a personal festival, in addition to its being a collective one?

God has blessed this love despite the well-known impact of the unjust blockade on the people's lives and mood.

There is no doubt that they saw and heard all this but do not want to admit the reality because it hurts them and destroys their interests.

They launched a third world war to destroy the vigor of this impossible love.

By God they could not disturb him. So, how can they harm him by issuing leaflets with ridiculous contents written in poor style?

We cannot blame them, especially since there is nothing left to them except nonsense. For our part, we will continue to live with this noble love.

Writer Predicts 'Defeat' of Capitalism

JN0605164194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 May 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "1 May: Moving Away From Capitalism"]

[Text] Some may ask: Have the changes in the world over the past five years negatively affected world Labor Day? This question has been conspicuous in recent years. A ready-made answer is often presented: "The collapse of communism in East Europe has brought the era of the laborer to an end." This sinister answer links laborers to communism, as if laborers and their defense are confined to communism. One of the greatest acts of political deception in this century has been America's promotion of the lie that socialism has been defeated and that the interests of laborers, as defined by socialism, are an illusion that will never materialize. They argue that this is because a market economy will give the laborers only what they deserve. Apart from this, nothing else is "part of the jurisdiction" of the economic system. This leads to the assumption that the poor segments of society must endure poverty because they must accept it as their fate in life. However, the chance for the United States to continue this deception was short-lived, even shorter than expected by its most sworn enemies. This is because the "market economy," which replaced communism in East Europe, actually created misery, crime, social and moral decadence, and cultural and political degeneration. Thus, those who were deceived by slogans of "democracy" and "human rights" were soon disillusioned when the human being there became the cheapest commodity under the market economy. Thus, the overwhelming majority of people in East Europe and the Third World discovered that capitalism is the AIDS of the age because it spreads poverty, social degradation, and injustice. As the true leader of all the social classes and segments that have been economically destroyed by the U.S. invasion, it was natural for the working class in those countries to resume their struggle and to swiftly turn into a revolutionary force working for the removal of misery and degeneration. The year 1993 truly marked the beginning of world struggle against U.S. capitalism's attempts to conquer the world and turn the middle class into a poor working class. Such attempts have polarized the world into a poor majority and very tiny rich minority. Socialism has restored its vitality and managed to isolate the capitalist and bourgeois forces. The conviction that social justice cannot be achieved under capitalism has won more supporters, because the working class in eastern Europe and some parts of western and central Europe has freed itself of the illusions of capitalism and the market economy. Just as late 19th century witnessed the decadence of capitalist thought, the late 20th century will witness the defeat of capitalism as a way of life. This raises the need for a socialism that respects the freedom of human beings, recognizes the private sector within a socialist understanding, coexists with religion, and entertains strong and clear nationalistic traits reflecting the true interests of peoples and nations. Such a formula will overcome the weaknesses of communism and capitalism at the same time.

UN Given Airspace, 'Hostile Publications' Protest

JN0805105294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] New York, 8 May (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations against U.S. aircraft continuing to violate Iraq's airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a letter he sent to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali yesterday, Iraq's permanent UN representative, said these aircraft carried out 323 hostile sorties over large areas of northern and southern Iraq on 21, 22, 23, 26, 29, and 30 April.

The memorandum also said that a drone fell on the village of Berminkah east of Mosul on 28 April and that hostile enemy dropped hostile publications over al-Ta'mim Governorate on the same day.

Health Minister Mubarak Attends WHO Meeting in Geneva

Blames Embargo for Health Conditions

JN0605181294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak has blamed the persistent sanctions for the progressive deterioration in health conditions in Iraq, citing a dearth in medicines and medical facilities.

The minister was speaking at a news conference in Geneva, where he is attending a World Health Organization conference. Mubarak said the rising incidence of diseases and deaths among children in particular is supported by reports drawn up by international organizations.

Iraq has satisfied the conditions laid down by UN Security Council resolutions, and is now, therefore, eligible for imports of food and medicines. Certain quarters, however, are blocking these deliveries, said the minister.

Urges Mediation To Release Funds

JN0705134994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Geneva, 7 May (INA)—Iraq has urged the WHO to intercede with the UN Security Council to secure the release of frozen Iraqi assets, so that it can purchase medicines and other basic human necessities and medical supplies.

In an address to the 47th WHO session currently convening in Geneva, Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak urged the international community to speak out against the continued blockade imposed on Iraq since Iraq has honored its commitments in accordance with the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

The health minister reviewed the health situation in Iraq in light of the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Minister's Comments Detailed

JN0805142294 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Geneva, May 8 (INA)—Minister of health has said the on-going economic sanctions have caused an alarming rise in mortality rate among Iraqi people, and in particular among children.

In a press conference held here on Friday on the fringe of the 47th session of WHO (World Health Organisation), Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak said the sanctions have caused a noticeable increase in mortality rate among Iraqis, noting that the rise in mortality rate was confirmed and stated in the reports conducted by missions of international organisations and agencies which visited Iraq.

He added that shortages of medicine and medical appliances as a result of sanctions have further aggravated the suffering of sick people and those who suffer from chronic diseases.

WHO [as received] went on to say that Iraq has so far implemented and met all obligations demanded by UN Security Council resolutions, adding that there are certain parties that work to prevent the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

He added that despite the fact that Iraq has met all its obligations as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolutions 715, 768, the UN Security Council has not reciprocated by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 768 to lift the sanctions and permit Iraq to import food and medicines.

Later on Friday, the minister held talks with his Turkish counterpart.

During the meeting, Dr. Mubarak briefed the Turkish official on the tragic health situation in Iraq and the deteriorated status of health services caused by the ongoing sanctions.

The Turkish minister showed understanding of the tragic health condition in Iraq, expressing desire and readiness to enhance technical cooperation and boost the exchange of visits and expertise.

On Tuesday, Dr. Mubarak met with a number of Arab health ministers attending the 47th session of WHO currently on in Geneva.

The minister discussed with Arab officials the negative impacts of the economic sanctions on Iraq's health system.

Also on Tuesday, Dr. Mubarak met separately with WHO President Dr. H. Nakajima, WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean, Dr. Husayn al-Jaza'iri, and health ministers of Greek, India, Turkey, China, Pakistan and Indonesia to brief them on the deteriorated health status in Iraq.

During the talks, the health officials expressed readiness to probe and define proper mechanism to realize joint cooperation towards alleviating the suffering of Iraqi people.

In another development, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily on Tuesday reported that WHO will supply Iraq with medicines, vaccines and medical appliances.

Quoted by the daily, Dr. Hashim al-Dabuni, member of the National Assembly (the parliament) and Iraq's representative to the parliamentarian physicians conference recently concluded in Bangkok said that WHO President Dr. H. Nakajima has told him that the organisation will work to meet Iraq's need for medicine, vaccines and medical appliances and that cost will be covered by the Japanese Government.

He added that WHO president was able to convince the Japanese Government that the sanctions have denied Iraq access to its assets abroad and that Iraq, due to the sanctions, has no financial resources to fund the purchases of medicines and medical appliances.

Earlier, a report by the Ministry of Health has pointed out that fatalities among Iraqi people over the past month of February have risen sharply the ongoing economic sanctions imposed on the country.

As usual children are hit hardest by the sanctions, the reported noted, saying that the achievements of the last decade in terms of improved health services such as reaching the 80 per cent target the universal child immunization programmme and halving infant mortality rates have been badly affected.

The report indicating that some 6,901 Iraqi people have died over the said period because of the continuation of the economic embargo that deprived the Iraqi people of food and medicine.

According to the report, some 5,446 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhea, malnutrition and pneumonia.

Saddam Allocates 8 Million Dinars To Aid Poor

JN1005122094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 8 million dinars for poor families in the governorates of al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, and al-Ramadi due to the approach of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The comrade secretaries of al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, al-Anbar, and al-Jazirah branches of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party said leader President Saddam Husayn's generous contribution confirms his excellency's interest in alleviating the suffering of his people. This suffering is a result of the continued blockade imposed on the people of Iraq and seeks to infringe on their steadfastness and free will.

PRC Trade Official: Companies Willing To Provide Food

JN0905101994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has met with Chen Huanmin [name as received], head of the delegation of the PRC Ministry of External Trade and Economic Relations.

The head and members of the PRC delegation asserted that PRC companies are willing to provide food supplies and raw materials to Iraq to enable it to provide food for its people and overcome the difficult circumstances it is passing through as a result of the continued blockade.

The head of the delegation also expressed the PRC's desire to develop its relations with Iraq in all fields in the interest of the two friendly nations.

Maltese Ship Carrying Wheat Docks at Umm Qasr

JN0705172794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, 7 May (INA)—The Maltese ship Harmony Sea [name as transliterated] docked at the silo quay at the Umm Qasr Port at noon today. The ship is carrying a shipment of German wheat imported for the Trade Ministry.

An INA correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate said that the silo workers have started unloading the ship.

Saddam Receives Message From Jordan's King Husayn

JN0805103094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in reply to a cable his excellency had sent to his majesty on the anniversary of his assumption of his Constitutional authorities. The cable says:

We received with appreciation your brotherly congratulations on the anniversary of our assumption of Constitutional authorities. As we send your excellency our sincere thanks, we beseech almighty God to preserve you and grant you success in serving your fraternal country. Please accept our heartfelt wishes of good health, happiness, and success.

Taha Yasin Ramadan Receives Jordanian Delegation

JN0805164594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received the Jordanian al-Mustaqbal Party delegation led by its Assistant Secretary General Samir Khirfan.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that taking sides with Iraq is supporting right, justice, principles, and laws. He added that the hostile U.S. policy needs no proof to be denounced because it is clear and declared against Iraq, Palestine, and the Arabs.

The head of the al-Mustaqbal Party delegation praised President Saddam Husayn's courageous leadership and the bravery of the Iraqis who have confronted a military aggression and challenged economic aggression represented by the embargo clamped on Iraq through the reconstruction campaign. He stressed that the aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the Arab nation, especially since Iraq has become the revolutionary Arab base whose struggle for the sake of Arab causes is based on firm and principled stands.

Delegation Concludes Visit

JN0905102194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—A delegation from the Jordanian al-Mustaqbal Party, led by the party's Assistant Secretary General Samir Khirfan, left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a visit that lasted several days.

During the visit, the delegation met with several Iraqi officials in the party and the state and signed a working program with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to develop

relations of cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the two fraternal countries and the objectives of the glorious Arab nation.

More Than 2,000 Reported Killed in KDP, PUK Clashes

LD0705192094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Over 2,000 people from the two sides have been killed in the recent clashes between the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. Citing informed sources, IRNA has reported that the PUK's artillery attacks on most of the towns controlled by the KDP and the Islamic movement has wrecked large parts of residential areas, especially in Halabja, Khurmal, and Chamchamal.

The recent clashes in northern Iraq between the KDP and PUK began last week in the town of Qal'ah Diza.

Further on Clashes

JN0705195094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The forces of Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani continued to exchange fire yesterday in Chamchamal, Singaw, Khurmal, Tawilah, and Banjwin. Elements from the so-called Islamic Movement supported the Mas'ud Barzani elements to control the offices of the Jalal Talabani clique. In response, the Talabani clique attacked a number of men of religion in the region, killing five of them.

In Irbil Governorate, clashes flared up on the outskirts of Salah al-Din summer resort, where Mas'ud Barzani's headquarters are located. Other clashes took place in Kuysanjaq and the (Katlajan) complex.

Elements from the Mas'ud Barzani group opened fire with machine guns and rocket launchers on Jalal Talabani's house in Shaqlawah.

Reports from Irbil say that a state of fear and panic is prevailing among the leaders of the saboteurs. They fear that the situation in Irbil might explode because the situation there is difficult to control due to the existence of most of the forces and offices of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabi there. Thousands of the residents of districts and cities there fled their homes to the mountains and valleys in fear for their lives. Elements from the cliques of saboteurs are taking advantage of the situation there to loot homes and shops.

Iranian Guards Said Involved in Attacks on Villages

PM1005190594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 94 p 6

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Iraqi Kurdish Sources Confirm Capture of Revolutionary Guard Members"]

[Excerpt] London—Iraqi Kurdish sources have stated that Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces attacked three towns inside Iraqi Kurdistan over the past few days, which also witnessed clashes between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Jalal Talabani and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani.

PUK officials contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday said that joint forces of the Revolutionary Guard and the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan [IMIK] (a fundamentalist movement suspected of receiving aid from Iran) last Tuesday attacked the towns of Halabjah and Khurmal near the Iraqi-Iranian border and tried to control them "but PUK forces confronted and killed, wounded, and captured some members of these forces," according to the sources, which added that the day before yesterday the village of Biyarah [as transliterated] near Halabjah was the target of "another attack by the forces of the Revolutionary Guard and the IMIK" and that the attack was repulsed by PUK forces. The sources added that the attacking forces "suffered 150 dead, some of whom carried Revolutionary Guard identification cards," and the the prisoners taken by PUK forces included "three Iranian Revolutionary Guard members." They further said that the PUK forces also seized arms and equipment from the attackers.

Fierce battles had taken place in December last year between the PUK and the IMIK, as a result of which the latter lost its influence in the areas close to the Iranian borders.

Meanwhile, sources in the parties of Barzani and Talabani have confirmed that calm continued for the second day yesterday in the Iraqi Kurdish areas where armed clashes occurred last week between fighters of the two parties, but independent sources say that the situation is still tense in some areas. Joint committees from both parties are visiting these areas and trying to normalize the situation there.

It should be noted that the Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party had sent a message to Barzani, Talabani, and the political bureaus of their two parties urging "an end to the fighting and a restoration of the situation which existed before 2 May." In a bulletin, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, it said that the Central Committee held an emergency meeting last Saturday during which it discussed the recent clashes and issued a statement urging that "the blood of the Kurdish people be spared" and that "the region of Kurdistan should not fall into the trap which Saddam Husayn's clique is trying hard to push it into." [passage omitted]

PUK Losses Reportedly Heavy

LD1105100594 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Marivan, Kurdistan Prov., May 11, IRNA—In the attack of the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of Iraq [PUK] affiliated to Jalal Talabani against the

positions of the Party of Islamic Movement of Kurdistan of Iraq more than 1,400 of the attackers were either killed or injured, according to a member of the Central Council of the Islamic Movement Party.

Mamustan Mulla Sadiq told IRNA that the forces of the Islamic Movement of Iraq have prepared themselves for confronting a wide attack from the Patriotic Union in Galuyeh, which could occur at any time.

This member of the Central Council stressed that in the course of the clashes during the recent week between the PUK and joint Muslim forces in Northern Iraq the armed guerrillas that are against Turkish Government and also the Komaleh and democrats have cooperated with Jalal Talebani.

The region of Galuyeh was under the heavy fire of the PUK since Tuesday morning.

Talabani Comments on Embargo, 'Incidents' With PKK

BR1005150894 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 10 May 94 p 17

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Gabriel Bertinetto; place and date not given: "If Saddam Falls, I Will Give Up the Kurdish Dream"]

[Text] "Uniting all the Kurds under a single state by overcoming the current artificial borders remains the common dream of our people. But politics is not made of dreams. We are therefore aiming at a federal and democratic state inside the current Iraqi borders, as long as the country is freed from Saddam's dictatorship." This is how Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani, who was received yesterday by President Scalfaro and trade union and political leaders (including [Democratic Party of the Left Secretary Occhetto), summarizes up the objective of his party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in this interview.

[Bertinetto] Mr. Talabani, the news that comes from Iraqi Kurdistan is not very positive. In addition to the continuing economic crisis, there are reports of divergencies and even of some armed clashes between your people and supporters of Barzani. What is happening?

[Talabani] In effect there are difficulties. Despite the considerable progress made in relaunching agriculture, industrial activity is stagnant, also because of the three-sided embargo of which we are the victims: the internal embargo imposed upon us by Baghdad, that of the neighboring countries, and the international embargo decreed upon by the United Nations against Iraq (which, though directed at Saddam, also involves Kurdistan). The same holds true for the production of electricity and for infrastructure work in general, which are at a very low level. Among our major problems is the forced exile of 300,000 Kurdish people who the Iraqi authorities are preventing from returning. As for the incidents between our forces and those of our allies, these are restricted to certain areas and have been caused by the mistakes made by the local leaders of the Democratic Party, as Barzani himself admitted. The situation is now getting back to normal.

[Bertinetto] What do the two parties agree and disagree on?

[Talabani] There is accord on participating in an alliance whose objectives are the democratization of society, defense from outside aggression, and the consolidation of a regional self-government. There is disagreement on the types of reforms to be implemented. In general, one can say that a national democratic trend and a social democratic trend are face-to-face.

[Bertinetto] How do you judge the support given by the United Nations to Iraqi Kurdistan?

[Talabani] I would say that not enough is being done. A lot of money has in fact been spent, but a lot has also been wasted in the bureaucratic management of aid. We would prefer to see a decision on the use of funds made in coordination with our local government. If this does not happen, I do not think that it is a matter of our not being trusted, since all the foreign visitors recognize the fact that we have made great steps ahead. Especially if you consider that we started from practically nothing after the devastation caused by the Iraqi military, which also left us with 22 million mines spread throughout our territory, many of which are Italian made.

[Bertinetto] Kurdistan is currently much more than an autonomous region but much less than an independent state. What would you like to become in the future?

[Talabani] It depends. If the dictatorship were to fall, we would be in favor of a democratic and federal state that would comprise the Kurds and Iraqis. If tyranny remains, the Kurds will have to seek other paths.

[Bertinetto] Do you think that Saddam is still strong?

[Talabani] Things are worsening in Iraq. Discontent is increasing among the people and even in the Army. However, you must not overlook the groups in the Armed Forces and the police that consistently pledge absolute loyalty to Saddam.

[Bertinetto] Let us assume that the dictatorship is overthrown. Would the creation of a federal state mean abandoning the historical project of uniting all the Kurds in a single state between the existing borders of Iraq, Iran, and Turkey?

[Talabani] It is a known fact that Kurdistan was artificially divided after the World War I. We Kurds are the victims of a conspiracy against us. However, we must be realistic. At present it is impossible to modify the borders between all the countries in the area. The unity of all the Kurds does remain the final objective, because a divided nation cannot give up its dream to be united. It

remains inside us, but it is a dream, and a responsible political leadership cannot act on the basis of dreams.

[Bertinetto] Last year you tried to mediate between the Turkish Goverment and the PKK [Workers' Party of Kurdistan] rebels. A truce was reached, but then, unfortunately, fighting started again, and it was even bloodier than before. Why?

[Talabani] One of the reasons was the death of President Turgut Ozal. He was one of the Turkish authorities most willing to negotiate. One also can say the the atmosphere was still not ready for a political solution.

[Bertinetto] The Turkish Kurds, the PKK, and affiliated groups complain that Europe is not showing any interest in their cause, and in this way they justify the often clamorous, and sometimes violent, protest demonstrations they incite in the cities of countries where there are massive numbers of Kurdish emigrants, primarily Germany. What do you think?

[Talabani] I do not think that Europe has shown little interest in the Kurdish issue. The European Council and the European Parliament voted on resolutions that call for human rights to be respected, Germany has stopped the supply of weapons to Ankara, and the Bundestag has asked for a political solution to the conflict. Perhaps all of this is not enough, perhaps certain Kurdish groups expect more, but this cannot justify the violation of laws in countries in which they are guests, because in this way they would lose support and sympathy.

Urges Solidarity

NC1005164294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has addressed an appeal to the peshmerga forces in Kurdistan and the Kurdish masses. He stressed the need for unity and solidarity among the Kurdish people in general and between the PUK and the Kurdish Democratic Party in particular.

Talabani said that making the democratic experience in Kurdistan a success and the survival and promotion of the government of Kurdistan is contingent upon the unity of the people's ranks. He emphasized that all resources must be devoted to protecting liberated Kurdistan and liberating the country from the dictatorship and establishing a federal democratic Iraq. He called on the struggling Kurdish parties to enhance their struggle and efforts to entrench peace and fraternity in dear Kurdistan.

Kurdish Leaders Express Eagerness To Implement Accords

PM1005145494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 94 p 3

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani have stressed to AL-HAYAH their eagerness to implement the agreements between their parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, especially an agreement they signed with the Unified Iraqi National Congress on Sunday night/Monday morning. It stipulates the speeding up of normalization in the areas that witnessed clashes between fighters from the two parties in north Iraq. The agreement also stipulates that the normalization process should be completed in three days.

Barzani stressed the need to protect "our people's democratic experiment and unity and the Iraqi national opposition movement and its future." Talabani, who will head for Kurdistan accompanied by a number of the "National Congress," called for "maximum efforts to restore stability and security to our homeland."

A high-ranking official in the Congress has said that "matters are normal and the agreement is complied with fully." He pointed out that units belonging to the Congress are deployed on the contact lines and at main facilities and security barriers in the area. Kurdish administration sources have stressed that calm has been restored in the area and that the administration has managed to contain all the violations that had taken place over the past two days.

In the same context the Iraqi opposition official criticized "Iranian exaggerations" about the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. And officials from the two main Kurdish parties, in statements to AL-HAYAH, accused Tehran of seeking to "foment sedition." They denied a report attributed by AFP to the official Iranian News Agency, namely that a "senior official" from the Kurdistan Democratic Party said that 2,800 people have been killed in the fighting in north Iraq. [passage omitted]

Pro-Government Kurdish Party Issues Statement

JN0905181194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—The pro-government Kurdistan Democratic Party has stressed that the Iraqi Kurds will not abandon their loyalty to the leadership of President Saddam Husayn regardless of all forms of imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plotting.

In a statement issued today in light of the bloody clashes currently taking place in the Autonomous Region in northern Iraq between the subversive, agent, and treasonous cliques, the party said that the new crimes which are being perpetrated by these cliques clearly reconfirm an established fact; namely, that the Iraqi Kurds will not enjoy peace, security, and true prosperity until the return of legitimacy and the central authority to the all Iraqi Kurdistan.

The statement noted that the humiliated enemies, conspirators, and traitors, who have imposed themselves as trustees on the Iraqi Kurds by force, coercion, compulsion, and terrorism, have spread destruction, sabotage,

killing, and terrorism all over Kurdistan, and perpetrated all forms of crimes, including the plundering of the Kurdish people's food. They have also spread chaos to the point where the citizens have begun to feel insecure.

In its statement, the Kurdistan Democratic Party said that the bloody confrontations taking place between the agent and reactionary symbols and elements were the result of a conflict between their selfish, parochial personal interests, which are linked to the colonialist interests, without taking the Kurdish people's aspirations and hopes into consideration.

The party called for solidarity between the Iraqi Kurds and all the honest people in the world to expose these cliques and their relations with the foreigners, to reject all their actions, and to call for the return of legitimacy and the constitutional authority to all Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurds Urged To Disarm Combatants, Kill Leaders

JN1005112394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 94

["Text" of an "appeal" issued by the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous region, and the representatives of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region at the National Assembly; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God sets forth a parable: A city enjoying security and quiet, abundantly supplied with sustenance from every place. Yet was it ungrateful for the favors of God. So God made it taste of hunger and terror in extremes closing in on it like a garment from every side, because of the evil which its people wrought. [koranic verses]

An appeal to our Kurdish people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region following the large-scale armed clashes between the Barzani and Talabani groups:

O our people who are shackled by the chains of the infidel coalition and the hegemony of the traitors and lackeys; O our good Kurdish people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region: We have drawn your attention in the past to the fact that those who are tampering with Kurdistan [words indistinct] and its developmental structure which was built by the glorious 17-30 Revolution in recognition of our Kurdish people's national and cultural rights are merely pawns in the hands of international tyranny, which it moves as it pleases to achieve its goals and objectives in the easiest way and with the least sacrifices.

Those who chose to follow the infidel foreigner and joined his aggressive plans, with all this submission and humiliation, have severed all links with you about which they used to brag. They have deceived some people and were about to sever all links to land and history. God, however, has turned their evil against them. They are now being exposed before the entire people. Thanks to God's will, one is falling by the fire of the other in an action financed by the evil coalition. They want to set Kurdistan ablaze because they do not want it to return to the motherland, which gave it security, prosperity, and rights. They are setting it ablaze so that no one will pay attention to his rights, development, and progress, and so that the sedition will continue as it continues in Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Our honorable brothers in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, disarm the combating warriors of their weapons and then turn the weapons against their leaders because they, by God, are implementing the schemes of imperialism, Zionist, and reactionism and are igniting a fire that will consume everything in Kurdistan. Turn the fire of God against the traitors of the homeland and the people. Chase the enemies of God in Kurdistan and reject their ugly presence because we, by God, are a people who only accept friends from within themselves. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: O ye who believe take not for your friends unbelievers rather than believers; do ye wish to offer God an open proof against yourselves?

[Signed] The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous region, and the representatives of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region at the National Assembly

Coalition's 'Silence' on Kurdish Fighting Criticized

JN0605115494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said the coalition forces' silence on the massacres of Iraq's Kurds, represented by the conflict between the Talabani and Barzani groups, exposes the false humanitarian slogans Washington and its allies used as a cover to enter into Kurdistan.

In its editorial today, the paper emphasizes that the continued annihilation of Kurds in the fierce and ongoing confrontations between the Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani groups sheds light on the serious conspiracy concocted by the colonialist and Zionist circles against Iraq and its people.

AL-'IRAQ adds that the comprehensive and large-scale fighting between the Talabani and Barzani gangs reflects the miserable situation created by the erroneous circumstances in the absence of order and law in the area.

The paper wonders about foreign forces' role in confronting the scandals and terrible crimes to which the sons of Kurdistan are being subjected. These forces came on the pretext of immediately intervening and protecting the Kurds, if they are subjected to any military operation.

Suffice it to say that turning a blind eye to the ongoing massacres of Iraq's Kurds is a flagrant war against the Kurds targeting their lives, existence, fate, and their future, the paper notes.

AL-'IRAQ describes the position of the foreign forces, which are idly watching the slaughtering of Iraq's Kurds at the hands of the Talabani and Barzani gangs, as a new formula of imperialist-Zionist hypocrisy and a form of intrigue, lies, distortion, falsification, reversal of realities, and concealment of facts away from the world public opinion.

Marshlands Said Almost Dry; Residents Leaving

NC0705152894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Iraqi mujahidin sources in southern Iraq said that 90 percent of the marshlands in the south have been dried up and that these areas have no water in them except for some parts of the marshlands of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah. In an attempt to describe the bad conditions the marshland dwellers are living in, the sources said that drying up the marshlands has pushed most of the people there to migrate to other areas. The terrorist regime in Baghdad has also transferred some of the marshland dwellers to unknown districts.

In another report, an Iraqi mujahid said that the surprise attack the mujahidin forces carried out recently on the headquarters of the 10th Battalion in the north al-Qurnah led to the elimination of two platoons and the killing of the commander of the battalion. In these operations, the mujahidin seized a number of mortars, some communications equipment, and some military documents.

Harvest Preparations in Babil Governorate Reported

JN1005192694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 4

[Article by correspondent Muhammad al-Talibi]

[Text] Babil—The largest wheat and barley harvest campaign to be witnessed by Babil Governorate this year has begun with the participation of thousands of peasants and farmers.

Sa'id Salman al-Fadili, director of Babil Agriculture Department, said some 14 committee have been formed to supervise harvest operations and to provide the necessary means of transport to ensure the success of the campaign, which covers 293,000 donums and in which 105 harvesters will be used. Fuel and spare parts have also been ensured for the harvesters. He added that trucks have been provided to transport grains directly to silos and government receiving centers, and the Agriculture Department's teams have been instructed to join the campaign to follow its progress.

Al-Fadili said a mobile repair workshop with mechanics will accompany the harvesters, which can be transferred from one administrative unit to another if necessary to achieve a balance and to complete the harvest in all areas at once.

Preparations in Ninawa Inspected

JN1105092994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 4

[Excerpts] Ninawa—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Agriculture Minister Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi have discussed with Ninawa Governor Staff Lt Gen 'Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat the final preparations that have been made to begin the campaign for harvesting and marketing wheat and barley crops in the governorate.

This was during an expanded meeting of the governorate's Central Harvest and Marketing Committee which was attended by comrade Najm 'Abdallah al-'Iraqi, secretary of the Ba'th Party Ninawa Branch; 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayigh, secretary of the Mosul branch; several directors from the two ministries, heads of the departments concerned with the campaign; and representatives of the Federation of Peasant Cooperative Societies in the governorate.

The ministers praised the efforts and preparations that have been made by the Central Committee and the subcommittees in the Ninawa and Mosul party branches and other participant sides for the success of the harvest and marketing campaign in fulfillment of leader President Saddam Husayn's desire to ensure the campaign's requirements throughout our country, especially in Ninawa Governorate, in order to guarantee food for the people and to defeat the unfair blockade on our country. [passage omitted]

It was decided during the meeting to increase the present storage capacity so as to absorb the entire quantity of grain to be bought. Some 300 trucks have been ensured for transporting grain. This is in addition to transport by rail.

The agriculture minister affirmed that Ninawa will be the nail in the coffin of the food embargo imposed on our people. He said: This governorate, which leader President Saddam Husayn called "the bread basket of great Iraq," will play a major role in guaranteeing people's food.

The ministers of trade and agriculture, accompanied by the governor, then made a tour of several harvest and marketing areas to inspect the preparations which have been made. The areas included: al-Hadr, al-Qayyarah, Shawrah, Mahallabiyah, Tall 'Afar, Sinjar, al-Bi'aj, Tall Kayf, and Ba'shiqah.

Rabin Presents Autonomy Agreement to Knesset

TA1105101694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 0902 GMT 11 May 94

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset plenum presenting the Gaza-Jericho autonomy agreement with the PLO—live]

[Excerpts] Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset: In three weeks the State of Israel will mark the 27th anniversary of the Six-Day War. A generation has passed since that summer morning of 5 June 1967 when the code words "Red Sheet" launched the planes, tanks, and infantry troops on a just war of defense whose military achievements were some of the greatest in Israel's history. At the end of the war, in which 800 of our best sons and daughters were killed, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops were stationed on the bank of the Suez Canal, the border of the Jordan River, and on the Golan Heights. As the saying goes, failure is an orphan, while victory has many parents. The great victory of the Six-Day War was shared by thousands of IDF soldiers, and even today each one of them deserves our gratitude and appreciation for repelling the danger of extinction from our doorsteps. [passage omitted]

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, about half of Israel's citizens today were not with us in the Six-Day War. They were either born or immigrated into a new map of Israel, which was drawn by the IDF soldiers in the war, and to new and different relations with the Palestinians, the Arab countries, and the countries of the world in the aftermath of that war. At the end of the Six-Day War, Israel's defense lines were drawn along the Suez Canal, on the Golan Heights, and along the Jordan River. In our capacity as a military government, we are today also responsible for running the lives of 1.8 million Palestinians who never wanted us to rule over them and did whatever they could to hurt us. Twenty-seven years we ruled over another people without making any serious effort to solve the problem. Nevertheless, we tried to provide its needs and we ran its life, while protecting our own.

Through all those years, all Israeli governments, both those led by the Alignment and Labor and those led by the Likud, did not deem proper to annex the Gaza District, Judaea, and Samaria. The late Levi Eshkol, Golda Me'ir, and Menahem Begin, as well as—may they live long—Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir did not annex the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District to the State of Israel. At the end of the Six-Day War, in July 1967, Jerusalem was reunited and Israel's law and jurisdiction was applied to united Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people, which we commemorated this week.

It is no coincidence that the territories were not annexed, even when the state and the government were led by advocates of the notion of a greater Israel. Alignment and Labor governments knew then, just as they know today, that through the annexation of 1.8 million Palestinians the State of Israel would lose its Jewish and democratic nature.

Mr. Speaker, the current government led by Labor ran in the elections and won, with the promise to make a serious peace effort, rather than a verbose one; to terminate wars; to try to put an end to 100 years of enmity. The current government decided to take the first important and courageous step to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; to give a chance to peaceful coexistence. We believe that the two nations can live together with security and peace alongside each other on the same piece of land. This was our belief, this is what we talked about, this is what we promised, and this is what we will do.

On 13 September 1993, a Declaration of Principles [DOP] was signed in Washington between the Israeli Government and the PLO to establish a Palestinian self-government—it may also be called an autonomy—in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. This, as an interim arrangement for five years and as a preamble to negotiations about the permanent arrangements. The DOP stipulated that in the first stage the interim agreement would apply to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. A month after the DOP was signed, negotiations began in Taba between Israeli and PLO delegations on the implementation of the first stage, the Gaza and Jericho stage of the interim arrangement.

The negotiations on Gaza and Jericho centered on four types of issues: The security sphere, on which I will dwell at length; the civilian sphere—the transfer of powers from the Civil Administration to the Palestinian authority; the legal sphere—defining the legal infrastructure, legislative procedures, and legal powers in the areas of the Palestinian authority and relations in this sphere with Israel; and the economic sphere, on which deliberations were held in Paris, to determine the economic relationship between the Palestinian self-government authority and the State of Israel.

The negotiations on Gaza and Jericho were fraught with difficulties, mainly in the security sphere and due to Israel's insistence on arrangements which would enable it to exercise its responsibility for external security, the security of Israelis, the security of Jewish settlements. We insisted on it! No settlement will be uprooted! Does this remind you of something?

The negotiations were completed after seven months of talks, and the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed in Cairo last week, on 4 May 1994. The government today placed on the desks of the members of the Knesset [MK] the Hebrew and English versions of the agreement and its attendant maps. Of course, an arrangement has been made whereby the maps will be displayed in the meeting hall of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and a senior officer will give explanations. There is no secret agreement, there are no unpublicized appendices; everything is in the open and on the table.

To the MK's, and through them to Israel's citizens, I must say: In the long and tiring discussions into the wee hours and during long weeks, we meticulously and primarily insisted on the security needs of the State of Israel and its citizens, out of a desire to be free of running the lives of the Palestinians and endangering the lives of IDF soldiers in the streets of Gaza. This was our main concern.

Members of the Knesset, what does this agreement contain? The DOP stipulates that during the interim period the State of Israel will continue to be responsible for defense against external threats and for the general security and public order of Israelis wherever they may be, and of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. It further stipulates that the powers of the Palestinian authority will not include external security, the security of Israelis, the security of Israeli settlements, foreign relations, and other issues.

How will we go about implementing it? We will do it through various means: through control and supervision mechanisms along the borders and the roads, at the crossing points between the areas of the autonomy—or Palestinian authority—and Israel, and at the border crossings; through control of the air and sea spaces, joint patrols, a liaison and coordination mechanism, and through the redeployment of the IDF in and near the Israeli settlements. All these controls are anchored in the Gaza-Jericho agreement. They leave in Israel's hands all the tools necessary to meet our security needs in the best possible way in the new reality that will emerge in the field. All this, in addition to the mutual interest and commitment contained in the DOP and in the Gaza-Jericho agreement to peaceful and secure coexistence; to prevent terror, crime, and violence; and to coordination and cooperation arrangements.

Where does the agreement apply? The Gaza-Jericho agreement applies to the entire Gaza Strip and to a defined area around the city of Jericho. The territory to remain under Israel's responsibility in both areas has been demarcated. The maps of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, which are appended to the agreement and are an integral part of it, demarcate the various areas of jurisdiction. According to the agreement, the IDF will begin pulling out its troops from the autonomy area—or Palestinian authority—in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area upon the signing of the agreement and will complete its redeployment shortly afterward, within three weeks or even less. In order to meet this tight schedule, the IDF began preparing for a pullout and a redeployment even before the negotiations were wrapped up. The redeployment will apparently be completed within a few days.

Members of the Knesset, the agreement does not exist that pleases everybody. There is no agreement that does not entail compromises and concessions on both sides, if one wants the agreement to be fulfilled by the two sides. There is no agreement that does not entail certain risks. Such is the agreement placed on your desks. Nevertheless, we are convinced that in the new conditions we attained the maximum possible as far as security is concerned. Anybody who reads the details of the agreement and is honest with himself will at least have to admit that the concern for Israel's security and the security of the Israelis and the settlements is evident in every line and word.

What is in the agreement? With your permission, I will give some details. The agreement gives Israel absolute authority regarding a response to external threats. Let us not forget—external threats, foreign military threats, are the only threat to Israel's existence. Israel continues controlling an uninterrupted military territory along the border with Egypt. This strip remains under our exclusive authority. The Jericho area is not close to the Israeli security zone, under the IDF's control, along the Jordan River. We maintain full control over the airspace and military control over the territorial waters is in our hands.

The Palestinians will have a policing authority regarding civilian issues, subject to several constraints. Israelis will manage the international border crossings. Israel will be able to supervise the entrance of persons into the territories through the Palestinian terminal as well.

What else is in the agreement? The agreement includes arrangements which allow reasonable protection of the settlements and the settlers. Placing the settlements in blocs, that is, demarcating the settlements that can be put in blocs, allows blanket protection of most of the settlements in the Gaza Strip, with the exception of two isolated settlements. Naturally, the IDF is being deployed along the fence erected for the protection of the bloc, for its safety. Israel has full powers of operation, which allow it to do whatever is necessary to provide for the security of Israeli traffic on the main routes to the settlements and the adjacent areas. In the blocs of settlements there is also Palestinian territories adjacent to the settlements over which Israel has full security powers. They are called, by us and on the maps, yellow territories. Constraints on Palestinian building and other issues will prevail in those territories. Undisturbed Israeli movement was secured in parts of the routes under Palestinian security authority through the employment of joint patrols; for example, the routes crossing Jericho and the Qatif Bloc-Netzarim axis.

What else does the agreement include? It includes an arrangement ensuring effective protection of the borders of Israel and Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. Security criteria were defined in which construction and introduction of arms were placed under constraints and supervision in those regions as well. Furthermore, the Palestinian police has no authority over Israelis. The size, types of arms, and deployment of the Palestinian police were agreed on. Bringing in arms others than those allowed was banned. We will screen the Palestinian policemen and only those we approve of will be allowed to enter the territory. An apparatus of cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian police was set up. The

Palestinians made a commitment to act and prevent terror against Israel from, naturally, the area under their control.

We are aware of the fact that terror has not stopped and continues to harm us. We hope that, upon the assumption of control by the Palestinians in the regions of Gaza and Jericho, they will take measures to prevent terror, or at least significantly reduce the damage it causes. We regard this as a main test of the Palestinian police and authority established by the agreement.

I will present to you and perhaps elaborate on several points of the agreement: The agreement includes clear instructions regarding the duties of the Palestinian police in a bid to prevent friction and to make sure that the Palestinian police—in terms of the number of its men and types and quantities of arms and equipment in its possession—indeed functions solely as a police force and prevents attacks against Israelis to the extent possible. A coordinated network of local and regional liaison committees, which are being set up these very days, will ensure cooperation and coordination between the parties on a long-term basis. They will work around the clock to immediately handle any problem and to allow for coordination between the Palestinian police and the Israeli security authorities in charge of overall security and the protection of Israelis who reside in the settlements.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement contains instructions regarding the Temporary International Presence [TIP] in the regions of Gaza and Jericho. The instructions will be detailed within a given amount of time. This body will be made up of no more than 400 men from five or six countries. The TIP will be financed by the donor countries and will function for an initial period of six months.

True, in a bid to create a positive atmosphere and a basis of confidence between the parties, Israel agreed to release or hand over to the Palestinian authority some 5,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, but only those who have not caused Israeli casualties. There will be none among them who were arrested for engaging in hostile terror activities after the DOP was signed on 13 September 1993. Members of the rejectionist organizations who will be released will have to sign a declaration of support for the DOP and abstention from violence and terror. So far, more than 400 such prisoners have not signed the documents and were not released. We will not free prisoners who belong to organizations that declare their opposition to peace, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Members of the Knesset, the agreement is very complex and very detailed. It is almost impossible to absolutely prevent misunderstandings and friction at the beginning. In time, we will learn how to live together from the reality created on the ground. The civilian appendix to the agreement speaks of the establishment of a joint committee for cooperation and coordination, which is designed to coordinate the transfer of civilian authorities and allow daily contacts between the civilian authorities of both parties. This committee will solve problems that might emerge regarding the joint use of roads, the electricity and telephone lines, the crossing points into the territories of Gaza and Jericho, the areas beyond the borders, and travel to and from Israel.

Members of the Knesset, in hundreds of pages, hundreds of clauses and subclauses, the agreement tries to encompass all aspects of the relations between the two nations. For example, the civilian appendix covers 38 areas in which civilian authorities are being transferred from the Israeli Civil Administration to the Palestinian authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho region. In some of those areas, the management and administrative authorities will be fully transferred. In others areas—such as religion, archaeology, water, electricity, construction and planning, telecommunications, postal services, and population registration affairs—the transfer of powers will be subject to certain constraints in order to secure essential Israeli interests and ensure the orderly supply of energy, water, and means of communication and to provide free access to the Israeli settlements.

Members of the Knesset, in view of recent events, I must stress that freedom of worship at and access to sites sacred to the Jews was secured. The protection of all archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region was secured. Furthermore, there will be free access to those sites. A joint committee of archaeology experts will be set up. It will deal with matters of common interest regarding any issue that may impact on the Jewish sites. Naturally, very high standards, equaling our national standards, were set regarding protection of the environment, and I will not elaborate.

If this is not enough, the agreement also stipulates that the Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region will be issued identity cards in Arabic and Hebrew, based on the existing population registry, which, with Israel's assistance, will be updated on an ongoing basis and computerized. I will stress here, and return to this issue later, that the registration of Palestinians residing abroad and the issuance of tourist permits for them is subject to Israel's agreement.

What else can you find in the agreement? The maintenance of the electricity, water, and telephone infrastructures in the Israeli settlements and IDF camps in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli infrastructure in the Jericho region will remain in Israel's hands. The maintenance will be performed by the Israel Electricity Company, Meqorot, and Bezeq. The supply of those services to the Israeli settlements and the IDF camps will, therefore, be independent of the Palestinian authority.

The third appendix to the agreement deals with legal and judicial issues. It deals with matters pertaining to criminal and civilian judicial authorities and with reciprocal assistance between the Israeli and the Palestinian legal authorities. The legal appendix stipulates that the Palestinian authority will not have—I repeat, will not have—powers with regard to Israeli citizens, Israeli settlements,

and the area where the military installations will be located. This means that the Palestinian police will not be able to detain Israelis, and the Palestinian courts will not try them. Israel alone will have this power, as before. Furthermore, Palestinians who harm or attempt to harm Israelis in the regions under Israeli authority and who are captured by the Israeli security authorities will be questioned by Israel. The decision on whether such criminals will be tried by Israel or the Palestinian authority will be determined by both parties, which will consider each case on an individual basis. I must note here that even if an Israeli commits a crime in the area under the authority of the Palestinian authority—for example, on the streets of Gaza—it is the duty of the Palestinian authority to detain the suspect and call the Israeli authorities, which alone have the power to arrest him and keep him in custody.

The fourth and last appendix to the agreement deals with the economic relations between Israel and the Gaza and Jericho regions. It details import policy; import taxation; monetary and financial policy; direct and indirect taxation; and the economic aspects of labor, agriculture, industry, tourism, and car insurance. For example, the entry of goods into the territories through the border crossings with Jordan and Gaza will be controlled jointly by Israeli and Palestinian customs officers. The entry of personal luggage of travelers coming to the territories through these crossings will be controlled by Palestinian customs officers under the unseen presence of Israeli customs officers, who will be entitled to request to check it. The Israeli shekel will continue to be one of the legal tenders in the territories to be used for any purpose, and the Palestinian authority and its institutions, local authorities, and banks will have to accept it as a means of payment. Deliberations about minting a Palestinian currency will continue in the framework of the economic committee, and at this point, such a currency does not exist.

I will not elaborate on the arrival of tourists, to which I attach great importance, because tourism may serve as a good means for getting to know each other better. Both sides are interested in it.

As far as labor is concerned, there will be normal movement of laborers between the two sides, subject to our and their right to determine their numbers and subject to legislation. The placement of workers in Israel will be done only through the Israeli Employment Service.

Many reports, words, and headlines have been written in the last few days about one clause in the agreement: that which deals with the return of displaced persons to the territories. I heard and read many inaccurate—I would say even false and misleading—reports, and I can only blame those who consciously misused and misrepresented the facts. Here is the truth, the whole truth, on everything pertaining to the return of displaced persons: The Gaza- Jericho Agreement stipulates that a liaison committee consisting of Israel, the Palestinian authority, Jordan, and Egypt will be established to deal with issues of common interest and to decide on the principles concerning the entry of persons who left Judaea and Samaria in 1967. Take note: We are not talking about refugees from 1948 but about people displaced in 1967.

Now, I will reveal a secret to the Knesset and to those Israeli citizens who do not know it: This clause was copied verbatim from the Camp David accords, written and signed by the late Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

This clause does not stipulate how many people will be allowed to return to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and all the figures floated this week were totally unfounded. This clause stipulates that all the decisions on this issue must be made unanimously by all the members of the committee. In other words, without Israel's agreement, the committee will not be able to determine how many people will be allowed in and in what stages. The clause further states that the committee must decide on the necessary means to prevent pandemonium and disorder. This addendum, which was also copied from the Camp David accords—for which we owe our gratitude to the prime minister at the time, the late Menahem Begin—is meant to be a means of control to ensure that people are not allowed to enter the area without being assured in advance of proper housing and livelihood.

Members of the Knesset, I would like to bring to your attention that an attendant letter from the chairman of the PLO to the Israeli prime minister was appended to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. In this letter, the PLO undertakes, among other things, to make sure that the Palestinian authority and all the institutions subordinate to it act in accordance with the agreement. The PLO also undertakes to cooperate in locating the whereabouts of Israeli MIA's. Further on in his letter, the chairman of the PLO reaffirms his intention to present the changes in the Palestinian Covenant for the approval of the Palestine National Council at its next session, as he undertook to do in the DOP. In this exchange of letters, the two sides also undertake not to change the status of Gaza and Jericho in the interim period and to abstain from incitement and hostile propaganda against each other. In the same letter, the sides agree to pursue the negotiations on outstanding issues, including the size of the Jericho autonomous area, the stationing of a Palestinian official on the Allenby Bridge, and other arrangements at the Rafah terminal.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, all parts of the agreement have been placed on your desks. We believe it is a good agreement—good for us and good for the Palestinians. Therein lies the chance for its success.

Members of the Knesset, this is the time to thank from the bottom of our hearts thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of IDF soldiers in all branches, the Shin Bet, the Border Police, Israel Police personnel, and generations of Civil Administration workers, who for decades did a faithful and hard job, a tiring and dangerous task in

Gaza and Jericho. I hereby proclaim without any hesitation whatsoever that no other people in the world, no other nation or tribe, has engendered such sons and daughters and elicited from them such valor and tenacity to defend all of us in a situation of unparalleled complexity. The right word does not yet exist in the lexicon to express so much gratitude and appreciation to these wonderful people. I will derive great pleasure from seeing the IDF soldiers getting out of the streets of Gaza, Jabalyah, al-Shati', the al-Nusayrat and al-Burayj refugee camps, Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunus, and Rafah. They have nothing to do there, and nobody has the right to endanger their lives just to be there! Nobody! I am proud that this government is bidding farewell to al-Shati', Jabalyah, al-Nusayrat, al-Burayj, and Gaza.

This is also the time and place to treasure the memory of dozens of soldiers and civilians, male and female, who died in Gaza and Jericho; fighters who were there to fulfill their duties and civilians who paid with their lives only because they were Jews and Israelis. We remember them with love: the children of Pretty and Bob Arroyo, Amnon Pomerantz, Rahel Weiss and her three children, Shahar Ginosar and Ibrahim Shabal, Me'ir Mintz and Gal Avino'am, Doron Shorshan and 'Adnan Bu'ad, Rabbi Shim'on Biran and Asad Wafa, Barukh Ben-Shim'on and Doron Derezi, and many others whose names were not mentioned today. For them and their families, who will not forget till their dying day; for the fathers and mothers; the wives and children they left behind, this agreement came too late. We cherish their memory with love and believe and hope that their terrible sacrifice was not in vain. Amen!

This is the place to wish a speedy recovery to those injured and maimed in the last decades, many of whom are to this day struggling with their pains and scars. [heckling by Likud MK Limor Livnat about the fate of Israel's MIA's]

I do not want to talk about the MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle, because if I did I would have to disclose why 291 Syrian soldiers were handed back unconditionally. I do not want to deal with this subject today.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Knesset, in a bid to break the cycle of murder, end the endless bloodbath, and bring security to us and to them, we did something. We took the first step, which we believe and hope will lead us and our Palestinian neighbors to peace and tranquillity, even if there is still a long way ahead of us. We did not do it frivolously or carelessly. We believed and we continue to believe today that we did the right thing for the sake of children and grandchildren on both sides, for the sake of the peace to come. I am hereby asking the Knesset to take note of the government's announcement.

Cabinet Targets 18 May for Transfer of Powers

TA1105081194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 11 May 94

[Discussion between political correspondents Udi Segal, outside the Prime Minister's Office, and 'Adi Talmor, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Segal] A very brief cabinet session, which started at 0900, ended a short time ago. This session was convened to ratify the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and the agreement was indeed unanimously ratified. The results of the Histadrut elections obviously hovered in the air, but political affairs were the main issue on the agenda. Minister Yosi Sarid told us that even more significant than the ratification of the agreement was the determination of a timetable for the transfer of powers. The target date is next Wednesday [18 May]; by then all the Gaza and Jericho autonomy areas will be transferred to Palestinian authority.

[Talmor] Am I correct in saying that by that date all the Palestinian police forces will have entered the area and the Palestinians will be in charge of all the powers and buildings in the area?

[Segal] More than that. By next Wednesday the PLO will bear full responsibility in Gaza and Jericho. This is what Minister Yosi Sarid told us several minutes ago:

[Begin Sarid recording] The cabinet ratified the agreement unanimously. We should pay attention, however, to the timetable, because now it is very specific: by Friday, two days from now, the Palestinians will take over the southern part of the Gaza Strip and all of Jericho. By next Wednesday the Palestinians will take over the entire Gaza Strip, that is, Gaza city itself and the northern part of the Gaza Strip as well. This means that by next Wednesday the Palestinians will be in charge of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as stipulated by the agreement. The actual testing of the agreement will start at that time. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 11 May, reporting on the cabinet session, adds the following: "Minister Shim'on Shetrit said in the session that the agreement signed with the PLO deviates from the Declaration of Principles. He cited several examples, such as the granting of passports to the Palestinians, the ability to legislate basic laws, radio frequencies, dialing zones, etc."]

Straw Polls Say Ramon Leads in Histadrut Elections

TA1005193494

[Editorial Report] Several Israeli media at 1900 GMT on 10 May carry straw poll results of the Histadrut Trade Union elections. Polling booths were closed at 1900 GMT.

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew carries the results of a straw poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah which reads: "Hayim Ramon, head of the New Life in the Histadrut list, won 49 to 50 percent; Hayim Haberfeld of Labor received only 32 percent; the Likud representative Ya'aqov Shamay won 15 percent of the vote; and Binyamin Gonen received three percent. This is an unequivocal victory of Ramon's list."

Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew carries the results of a straw poll conducted by Dr. Hanokh Smith: "Hayim Ramon—49 percent; Labor—33 percent; Likud—16 percent; and Binyamin Gonen 2 percent."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew carries a straw poll conducted by the Teleseqer Institute which also gives Ramon the victory, stating he received "a little over 50 percent of the vote."

Rabin: Ramon's Election Victory 'Blow' to Labor

TA1005204794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held consultations with Histadrut Trade Union Secretary General Hayim Haberfeld, Labor party secretary Nisim Zvili, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres a short while after the publication of the results of the straw polls which granted the victory in the Histadrut elections to Hayim Ramon. Upon leaving the meeting, the prime minister told correspondents that the Labor party had undeniably been dealt a blow. However, when the correspondents asked him whether he intended to call upon Ramon to rejoin the ranks of the Labor party, Mr. Rabin pointed out that right now he was only commenting on the Histadrut elections and the immediate question was which form the internal arrangements inside the Histadrut would take.

The prime minister said that in his opinion the vote reflected the feelings of protest and disappointment of Histadrut members following a long period of Labor rule and this was a well-known phenomenon. Nevertheless, Rabin stressed that he was glad that the votes had remained within the left-wing camp while the Likud had received a serious setback. The prime minister avoided giving a direct answer when asked about the anticipated new political alignments, but reiterated that the government and the Labor party had political goals on the national level, noting that its leadership would be guided by considerations on how to achieve these goals.

Hayim Ramon's supporters in the Labor party, members of the quintet of Labor Knesset Members [MK's], called on the prime minister to permit the return of Ramon and his associates to the Labor party. This demand was firmly raised by MK's Ramon and Burg.

Ramon's arch rival, Minister Shim'on Shetrit, once again called Ramon a deserter this evening. Shetrit, however, noted that in politics, coalitions are established even with one's worst rivals. This implies that the partnership between Ramon and the Labor party may be renewed in some form.

Some members of Ramon's camp have called for the establishment of a coalition with the Labor party Histadrut faction, which will apparently receive 30 percent, or slightly more, of the vote.

Minister Shulamit Aloni said that the Ramon list would be prepared to consider such an affiliation. In Aloni's assessment, negotiations would start this evening and the Ramon list would join with the Labor party. The country is waiting for changes in the Histadrut, Aloni explained. Rabin has no reason to be concerned. On the contrary, social and economic changes would only stand to his credit. Aloni asserted that the coalition between SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Meretz in the Histadrut would be lasting and durable, and presented no problems.

MK Ya'aqov Shamay, head of the Likud list, congratulated Hayim Ramon on his achievement. Shamay noted, however, that this did not constitute a political upheaval in the Histadrut because Hayim Ramon was still a member of the Labor party.

Ramon, Labor Expected To Form Histadrut Coalition

TA1105051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] For the first time in 74 years the Labor Party has lost control of the powerful Histadrut Labor Federation. In elections yesterday, Hayim Ramon's list received about 47 percent of the votes, compared to Labor's 33 percent, and the Likud's 18 percent. Ramon and Labor are expected to form a coalition in the Histadrut, as we hear in this report from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Hayim Ramon, Meretz, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] did in a month what the Likud has been trying to do for 74 years: they knocked the Labor Party out of the Histadrut. Ramon dominated among almost all the voting groups—people under 30, pensioners, kibbutzim members, and development town residents. In a restrained victory speech, Ramon and Prime Minister Rabin agreed to set aside their differences. Ramon said: I think that on the basis of what the prime minister said, we should definitely continue our cooperation. The prime minister made a statement I think is important, let's set aside for now the formalities. They are less important.

Meretz and SHAS members went into a state of euphoria at MAPAM [United Workers Party] headquarters in Tel Aviv when the results were announced. Ramon watched the news from home, joining the celebration after midnight.

At Labor headquarters meanwhile, the atmosphere was grim. Histadrut Secretary General Hayim Haberfeld and

top party leaders locked themselves in one of the offices when the results were announced, and emerged defeated a half hour later. Once the results set in, even Ramon's harshest critics said they would be willing to join his coalition. This is Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit:

[Shetrit] With regard to coalition, we have made coalitions with the Likud, which is totally opposed to our views in the political and also in social matters, and I don't think that anyone who is sensible could say that he objects to coalitions with any group.

[Gur-Arye] Haberfeld will continue acting as secretary general for the time being. Ramon's party members will take up their new positions in August. Until then the two parties will have a tough time negotiating a coalition agreement. When it's all over, Haberfeld will vacate his office for Hayim Ramon, the new secretary general. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin hinted more than once overnight that the fact that Hayim Ramon, 'Amir Peretz, and Shmu'el Avital remain members of the Labor caucus in the Knesset, provides a loophole through which to bring them back into the party. The three in fact remain Labor Knesset members [MK's] even though they ran in a separate list in the Histadrut elections, and they ardently support the Gaza-Jericho accord between Israel and the PLO, which the Knesset is to debate today and tomorrow. The Knesset took the day off yesterday for the Histadrut elections, but is back in session today in a new political reality. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The Labor Party is waking up to a difficult morning in its parliamentary life, amid the inner conflict over whether to allow Hayim Ramon, 'Amir Peretz, and Shmu'el Avital to participate in the party's Knesset caucus. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin himself last night pointed out to reporters the awkward situation that while the Labor constitution requires the three to be expelled from the party, they do remain members of the Knesset caucus due to Knesset regulations. Peretz and Avital attended a caucus meeting last week. There were some bitter, sarcastic comments over whether they should be present, though most of the Labor MK's at the meeting seemed to support their bid to continue to be considered members. Either way, the three Labor Histadrut breakaways will all support the government in the Knesset plenum vote over the Gaza-Jericho accord signed last week.

The debate over the agreement with the PLO is due to begin this morning, resume tomorrow, and last perhaps until the early hours of Friday morning. For this debate Meretz will be back in the Labor Party's corner, as will SHAS. In the Knesset, Labor and Meretz are still in the same coalition, and SHAS is expected to be on its way back in. But in that coalition there are bitter feelings by Labor leaders towards Meretz. Meretz, which for the most part has compromised in the name of the peace process, has shown it knows how to confront Labor and win. Prime Minister Rabin can take solace only in the fact that whenever the marathon debate ends and the vote takes place, he is likely to prevail. The Knesset speaker's office has announced that the debate will start today, assuming the Prime Minister's Office presents before the Knesset this morning the Hebrew translation of the accord with the PLO. The English version was before the Knesset yesterday. The Knesset speaker's office says many MK's came to get a copy, even though the house was not in session due to the Histadrut elections. [end recording]

Ramon on Likely Histadrut-Labor Coalition

TA1105080694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Hayim Ramon, secretary general-elect of the Histadrut labor federation, by Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Mr. Ramon, is the way paved for a coalition between your list and Labor in the Histadrut labor federation?

[Ramon] I hope so. We told the voters that we hope to establish a coalition with Labor. I also said as much to the Labor party chairman. This position is shared by all members of our list. I hope negotiations with the Labor party chairman—who is also the prime minister—start very soon. I hope Labor party leaders in the Histadrut transfer power in an orderly way. We must remember that there has been no upheaval in the Histadrut since its establishment more than 70 years ago, so there is no experience in power changes in this organization. I sincerely hope that they intend to implement this changeover in the most orderly and smoothest way possible, thus enabling us to start working.

The way for cooperation with Labor in this issue is paved. I assume that I will meet with the prime minister in the very near future. For me the most important thing is that the basis for such a coalition be our platform, as we promised to the voters. Incidentally, large segments of this platform are included in Labor's platform for the Knesset elections. The antiquated Histadrut bureaucracy, however, prevented the prime minister from fulfilling his promises. The best example for this is the national health bill; another important example is the national pension bill. [passage omitted]

Dayr al-Balah Area Turned Over to Palestinians

TA1105044794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] The transfer of areas to PLO control will continue in the Gaza Strip today. Today they will receive control over the Rafah and Khan Yunus areas. Last night the Palestinians received control over Dayr al-Balah. Riots occurred in this town last night; youths hurled stones at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and fired shots in the air. Electricity supply to the Qatif Bloc was cut off last night, but the problem was corrected.

This morning the Dayr al-Balah area will be officially handed over to the Palestinians in a small ceremony. Some 150 more Palestinian policemen will enter the Gaza Strip today via the Rafah border terminal. The IDF is continuing its evacuation, which will proceed according to the rate of entrance of the Palestinian forces. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that only operational forces remain in most IDF installations in the Gaza Strip.

No Further Transfer of Powers 11 May

TA1105080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Senior Army sources state that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not transfer any powers to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip today. Yesterday about 140 Palestinian policemen entered an installation in Dayr al-Balah, where they remain for the time being. Today several dozen more policemen are slated to enter the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that over the next few days more Palestinian policemen will prepare in the area for the transfer of power to their hands.

Netanyahu on Likud Relations, Peace Process

TA0605175494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by Bina Barzel; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] It has been more than a year since Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu argued that "a senior Likud member" headed the "mafia" that wiretapped his calls and tailed him. The media claimed he was referring to David Levi, and Bibi did not deny it. At that time, Levi decided not to cooperate with the man who leveled such accusations at him and his colleagues. Since then, Levi has hardly set foot in the Likud headquarters at Metzudat Ze'ev, and he conducts his political activities from an office on Balfour Street in Tel Aviv. Levi was active in the municipal elections, in which many of his followers (heads of local councils and mayors) ran, but has stayed out of events and consultations conducted by Netanyahu or Moshe Qatzav.

In a surprising and one-sided move, Netanyahu apologizes here to David Levi for the distress inflicted on him. He calls on Levi to cooperate with him and to patch things up: "I appeal to David Levi. If I hurt him, I am sorry about it."

Netanyahu's new initiative should be seen in the broad context of recurrent secret efforts to renew their dialogue. These efforts were conducted by former Knesset Member [MK] Re'uven Rivlin, Levi's confidant, and by his brother, Maxim Levi. All these efforts have so far proved fruitless.

[Barzel] What is your attitude toward David Levi's prolonged boycott? Do you not think it is time the two of you made up? The animosity between you is so obvious, that not too long ago MK Hayim Ramon even had the audacity to propose to Levi to head his list in the elections to the Histadrut labor federation.

[Netanyahu] In view of the big national challenges ahead of us, the Likud and all the other parties in the national camp should rise above personal disputes and rivalries. I would like to seize this opportunity to call on David Levi to set aside past squabbles. If I hurt him, I am sorry about it. Many people look up to us and expect us to close ranks in these difficulties times. We must act together for the success of the Likud, which is so vital to the future of the country.

[Barzel] Why the sudden urge? Was not a whole year wasted, during which the resentment increased?

[Netanyahu] People have their own personal resentments, but it seems to me that Israel has never before experienced such a period of deterioration in personal safety and confidence in the future of the country as that brought about by the government's failed policies. This is why I arrived at the clear conclusion that this is a fateful hour which calls for special efforts to achieve unity. All personal considerations must be tossed aside, and everything possible must be done to close the ranks of the national camp.

[Barzel] How can such an appeal help? What do you expect Levi to do? Kiss and make up?

[Netanyahu] This is not my first appeal. I took similar initiatives in the past, away from the public's eye. I hope this appeal will elicit a positive response.

[Barzel] All the key positions in the Likud institutions have been filled. If Levi heeds your call, how do you envision his role in the leadership?

[Netanyahu] Some senior Likud members hold jobs, while others, such as Beni Begin, chose not to run for any official positions but are very well integrated in the Likud's work, consultations, and decisionmaking on central issues. There is a broad range for cooperation and teamwork for anybody who so wishes.

[Barzel] Refa'el Eytan proposed to set up a shadow government. Were you to set up such a government, what job would you offer Levi?

[Netanyahu] To the best of my knowledge, the shadow government system exists only in Britain, where there is a big party in the opposition and there is no coalition. I am not sure that the idea can be applied in Israel or that there can be a shadow government that includes all the opposition factions. It might lead to more divisiveness than unity.

On the other hand, I am very much in favor of getting the opposition used to teamwork and cooperation. Indeed, this is what we have been doing over the past few

months, not entirely unsuccessfully, as proved by our joint position opposing the government's policies and the removal of the Jewish settlement from Hebron.

It goes without saying that I would not presume to determine now the exact composition of the next government, but there is no doubt that David Levi would have a dignified and central role in it.

[Barzel] Have you met with him this past year?

[Netanyahu] We have not had any talks worth mentioning.

[Barzel] Does the recent appointment of Maxim Levi indicate that your mutual confidence has been restored?

[Netanyahu] I will not go into an analysis of relations among Likud members. As far as I am concerned, I will cooperate with whoever wishes to do so.

[Barzel] Do you enjoy the cooperation of members of Levi's camp?

[Netanyahu] I work with all Likud members. We have come a long way from the critical situation in the Likud a year ago: a shattered movement on the brink of bankruptcy, without any institutions. We have fundamentally changed this situation. In less than a year, we set up all the institutions that had not existed in the previous 15 years. We enacted a constitution and appointed a tribunal. We pulled the Likud out of its financial crisis, and in recent months, we began activating thousands of members.

Fortunately, I enjoy the cooperation of all flanks of the Likud. This is mainly because of the field activists' eagerness to work and take part in the activities needed to curb the policies of this government and to replace it as soon as possible. This, of course, is not reflected in the media, which tries to highlight the divisions and rivalries.

For example, there were reports about a mass walkout from the Likud's ranks. Let me tell you that the Likud is the largest party in the country today. At the end of last year, after we raised membership fees, no more than 19 percent dropped out, and we now have 180,000 paying members. In most parties, the typical drop-out rate after primaries is over 50 percent.

We built the organizational and financial tools to demonstrate this strength in the upcoming struggles and in the next Knesset elections.

[Barzel] Does the message about the need for unity also apply to Ari'el Sharon? He talks about the need for a collective leadership.

[Netanyahu] Sharon can make quite a considerable contribution to the Likud's success if he so wishes. I do not understand what the term "collective leadership" means. If it means team work, then let me tell you that I regularly summon the Likud's institutions and senior members in order to make decisions. However, I was chosen by thousands of Likud members to lead this team, and that is how I work. The door is wide open to anybody who wishes to join in or make a contribution.

Furthermore, the negative focus on the Likud is rather surprising for two reasons: First, because the Likud is clearly undergoing a speedy recovery and is growing stronger. This process is corroborated by all public opinion polls, and the government is very well aware of it.

Second, because divisions and rivalries—which I do not ignore—are not exactly the exclusive domain of the Likud. There is hardly any party in Israel that is not afflicted by disputes and rivalries. What is happening today in the Likud pales compared to the rivalry in the Labor movement, which ultimately led to a rift.

[Barzel] Do you think the pullout from Gaza, which many right-wing people support, and the contacts with Syria will reawaken in the public the euphoria caused by the signing of the Oslo agreement?

[Netanyahu] The euphoria of Oslo will not recur. The government is using the withdrawal from Gaza, which is supported by most Israelis, as a smoke screen for a withdrawal from all parts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the ensuing return to the 1967 borders. The people already realize whom they are dealing with. The Arabs have not abandoned their ambitions, and they take advantage of every retreat on the part of the government to fulfill their goals: pursuing terror in the short run, and bringing about Israel's annihilation in the long run.

[Barzel] Would you pull out of Gaza?

[Netanyahu] As prime minister, I would definitely be prepared to consider a redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Gaza and its vicinity. However, there is no way I would forgo the IDF's right to enter any place, including Gaza, in the course of a hot pursuit, to cite just one example.

But Rabin is not just pulling the IDF out of Gaza. He is about to establish an army of terrorists there, as well as in Jericho, Nabulus, and Hebron. He is handing terrorists the responsibility for fighting terrorists, and he is allowing 'Arafat to establish a state of armed terrorists overlooking a shriveled up and dwarfed State of Israel.

This is no peace process. This is the process of establishing a second Lebanon in the heart of Israel.

[Barzel] Even under these conditions, Rabin is having a hard time finding partners for a political process. With whom would you reach an agreement about the IDF governing Gaza?

[Netanyahu] I am not surprised that the Arabs are demanding more than even these capitulation terms. They have become used to the idea that this prime minister, Rabin, has no red lines. All his promises are

absolutely worthless. He has promised just about everything imaginable. The PLO has not abrogated the charter calling for Israel's annihilation and has not stopped terror or taken any steps against Fatah men who continue to engage in terror and, what is more, who closely cooperate with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] assassins.

[Barzel] Why should they talk to you about less than what Rabin has already promised them?

[Netanyahu] The fact is that when we conducted a genuine peace process, the Arabs demanded less and received less, because we know how to negotiate with the Arabs. Did al-Asad and the Palestinians believe they would get everything they are getting today when they came to Madrid? Did anybody conceive that the Likud would allow them to have a Palestinian state or would give back the Golan?

Certainly not, and yet they came nevertheless.

When the Arabs realize there is a different government, a determined government and not an appeasing one, they will have to forgo their exorbitant demands.

[Barzel] The current government will soon sign agreements, and this looks irreversible. If you head the next government, will you honor these agreements?

[Netanyahu] We will honor any international agreement that is honored by the other side, but there is no way we will honor them unilaterally. So far, the PLO has grossly violated all its basic commitments.

[Barzel] What will you propose to the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] The Israeli public is gradually coming to realize that there are two concepts in the search for peace. The first, which is being pursued by this government, has it that we must withdraw to the 1967 borders, establish a Palestinian state, and entrust our security to an army of terrorists, led by 'Arafat.

I believe in a totally different concept. Israel must keep its sovereign rule all the way to the Jordan River. The IDF, and not an army of terrorists, must be solely responsible for security in all areas of trans-Jordan, and the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be given autonomy.

No autonomy in the world has a flag, an anthem, an army, border controls, foreign relations, and judicial and executive branches. This is not autonomy. This is a state. And therein lies the essential difference between us and the government: They are offering a state, not autonomy.

[Barzel] Who on the other side will accept the kind of autonomy you propose?

[Netanyahu] I believe my plan will enjoy significant support among prominent elements in the Arab world—first and foremost, Jordan, whose king probably realizes he will not survive if a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank. Such a state will result in his downfall. I believe a common denominator can be found with Syria, which should ask itself what it would rather have to its south, in its underbelly: King Husayn, or a Palestinian state that would strike an alliance with his enemy, Saddam Husayn?

[Barzel] Is this the basis on which you expect an accord with Syria?

[Netanyahu] If I were the prime minister, I would conduct the negotiations with Syria in a totally different matter. Who has ever heard of a government announcing the concessions it intends to make before negotiations have even started?

I would tell al-Asad: You stand to lose from a state of war. I would elaborate on the issues that are more important to Syria than they are to us, such as water, security arrangements, striking Syria from the list of terror-supporting countries, and an arrangement in Lebanon acceptable to both countries.

There is no way I would offer Syria the Golan, which is a buffer against war. As long as the IDF is on the Golan with its tanks and artillery, the Syrians do not have the option of war.

[Barzel] In a few days, the government will sign an agreement with the PLO. Even if you return to power, you will face a fait accompli. What will you do?

[Netanyahu] Contrary to others, I do not think the establishment of a Palestinian state is an irreversible process. If the government thinks it can race from Gaza and Jericho straight to the permanent solution while uprooting settlements, it will encounter growing opposition on the part of the public.

This is not a nation of idiots. It will not agree to be forced back to the banks of the Yarqon River and to deploy 'Arafat and his terrorists on the hills overlooking Tel Aviv. This opposition is being led by the Likud, along with all the parties in the national camp.

[Barzel] Finally, how do you feel today about your personal affair a year ago?

[Netanyahu] I am deeply sorry about my personal slipup. I hurt myself and my wife, Sara. The media blew the issue out of all proportion, to the point of reporting out-and-out lies, which definitely did not make things any easier for us.

We had quite a tough year, but I believe that in the end, we will emerge stronger.

Jerusalem Mayor Interviewed on City's Future

TA0605140794

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 May on page B5 carries a 2,000-word interview with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert by Nadav Shragay. The place and date of the interview are not given. Asked

about Palestinian political activity emanating from Orient House and other PLO offices in East Jerusalem, Olmert says that the Palestinians are preparing for a difficult struggle over Jerusalem, adding that he has already warned the government about what is taking place in East Jerusalem. He remarks: "I do not know how much determination the government is evincing with regard to this issue. Let me say with all due caution: I am not claiming that Peres and Rabin want to divide the city. It would be unfair and unjust to say this, but this does not mean they are doing what is necessary to prevent this from happening. They are avoiding taking the necessary steps in order not to harm the negotiations with the PLO."

Asked about steps he would implement in this respect, Olmert says: "I would take any step necessary to curb Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem, barring infringements on civil rights, such as freedom of speech." He adds: "I would close down Orient House, and not only Orient House. I would not like to say anything beyond this." Asked about a purported secret agreement between Israel and the PLO, according to which the Arab villages in Jerusalem will be put under Palestinian sovereignty while the new Jewish neighborhoods will remain under Israeli sovereignty and the Old City will receive international status, Olmert says that such plans are occasionally floated unofficially; however, he emphasizes, "I know for certain that there is no such agreement or understanding." Asked whether it is possible to achieve peace with the Arab states and the Palestinians without compromising on Jerusalem, Olmert asserts: "The answer is unequivocally affirmative. They never really cared about Jerusalem. The city never served as the capital of any Arab country. At some future point, they will have to decide whether all the great achievements they have scored should be compromised in order to realize their demand for a political position in Jerusalem. I believe they realize that their room for maneuver in Jerusalem is negligible."

Queried about his construction and development plans in Jerusalem, Olmert states: "If you want to know whether I support confiscation of land where necessary for construction and development in Jerusalem, the answer is: absolutely yes." He adds: "I believe Jerusalem should expand eastward, because further westward development would soon turn Jerusalem into a suburb of Tel Aviv." Olmert concedes that "naturally, this planning concept has political ramifications." Asked whether this concept might lead to the conclusion that the city's jurisdiction should be extended eastward to include land slated to be incorporated in the autonomy, Olmert answers: "This may very well be one of the results, and it might be necessary to do so in the near future."

Golan Businessmen Prepare for Syrian Sovereignty

TA0705105394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Some of the Golan Heights entrepreneurs and investors are preparing to continue running their businesses under Syrian sovereignty. Moreover, they say they have learned that this issue was anchored in the proposals Israel has submitted to Syria.

Investments amounting to hundreds of millions of shekels continue to be made in the Golan Heights industry, agriculture, and infrastructure. A major part of the investments come from government funds.

'Source:' No Discussion of Remaining PLO Demands

TA0805050794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A senior political source has told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that Israel sees no point in discussing the issues that remain under contention with the PLO because it has no intention of acceding to the PLO's demands.

The disagreements revolve around the stationing of a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge, a Palestinian director at the Rafah border checkpoint, and the size of the Jericho enclave. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been informed of Israel's position.

On 10 May, the working groups on refugee affairs will resume discussions in Cairo. The parties will stress the improvement of the refugees's living conditions and refrain from dealing with other aspects of the problem.

Intelligence Chief Briefing on 'Terrorist' Attacks

TA0305151994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, has expressed the assessment that there will be a decline in terrorist attacks from the autonomous areas following the signing of the Cairo agreement. On the other hand, the number of terrorist attacks from other areas in the territories will rise. Maj. Gen. Sagi briefed the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin Vismonsky recording] Twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the IDF evacuation of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi, the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch, presented his evaluations regarding the near future to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Sagi believes that the number of terrorist attacks within Israel originating from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the attacks against settlers inside those areas will significantly decrease. On the other hand, Maj. Gen. Sagi expressed the assessment that the level of terrorism will rise in other areas of the territories where autonomy is not in effect. Sagi explained to the committee members that the PLO has an interest in keeping the security situation quiet and will therefore do everything to reduce the number of attacks in the areas under its control.

Maj. Gen. Sagi also commented on relations between the PLO and the rejectionist groups, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad. Sagi takes a positive view of the inclusion of Hamas representatives in the autonomy institutions as part of PLO efforts to prevent a Palestinian civil war. Sagi asserted that the PLO will attempt to prevent the murder of collaborators, noting that this phenomenon cannot be completely stopped. [end recording]

'Terrorists' Fire at Bus Near Jerusalem; 3 Injured

TA1005185694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Three passengers of Egged bus No. 474 were injured in a terror attack near Bet El this evening. They sustained gunshot wounds. One of them was moderately wounded and two lightly. The terrorists who attacked the bus fled. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the region and launched searches.

Arab Teenager Reportedly Killed by Settler

TA0905174494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Here is a report just in: A resident of the Neve Deqalim settlement has killed an Arab youth with his firearm. This was reported by Palestinian sources. The ITIM news agency reports that the settler fired at a group of stone-throwing youngsters, killing 14-year-old Ahmad Ibrahim Dabbas. The report has not been confirmed by any other sources.

Weizman Meets With Castro, Bhutto, Omani Sultan

TA1005140894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] This morning in Pretoria, President of State 'Ezer Weizman held brief meetings with Cuban President Fidel Castro, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and with the sultan of Oman. President Weizman told our correspondent Gid'on Kouts that Castro expressed an interest in ties with Israel. Castro added that the agreement Israel and the Palestinians had signed pleased him very much and that recently he met many Israelis. President Weizman invited the Cuban leader to visit Israel.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also expressed pleasure over the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. In her conversation with Weizman, she did not rule out contacts between Pakistan and Israel.

Qatari Minister: No Gas Deal Till Peace Established

TA0605114294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 May 94 p 3

[Report by special correspondent in Qatar Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim yesterday told DAVAR that his country would not sign a natural gas supply deal with Israel as long as comprehensive peace is not established in the region. He added, however, that his government would pursue contacts with the Israeli Government to discuss the terms of the deal that would be implemented after peace is established. He asserted that his country would continue welcoming Israeli delegates attending peace process conferences that may be held in Qatar in the future.

In reply to a question on whether the Qatari Government would send military representatives to a joint naval rescue exercise with Israel and take part in a joint regional communications center on military issues, the Qatari foreign minister said his government would soon decide whether to participate in these projects and on what conditions. He said time was not ripe for Qatar to send representatives to visit IDF [Israel Defense Forces] training installations, and he refused to say whether this may happen in the future. [passage omitted]

Cypriot Parliamentarians Meet Rabin, Peres

NC0905112694 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1030 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives multiparty delegation led by House President Alexis Galanos, now on an official visit to Israel, today began high-level contacts with Israeli officials. The delegation was received this morning by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and then met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres stressed the importance they attach to the visit and added that it will contribute to the development of Cypriot-Israeli relations. They also stated that the visit opens doors in the right direction.

Referring to the Cyprus issue, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wished for an early reunification of the island and stressed that it is important for there to be one state entity in Cyprus, where the principle of rule by the majority should prevail. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed the need to safeguard the unity of the Republic of Cyprus through intercommunal talks. However, he added that Israel is interested in its relations with Turkey and that it should preserve and safeguard them.

In a statement to the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, Shim'on Peres said that Cyprus has a bright future. He also expressed the conviction that there is enough prudence on the island for the existing dispute to be resolve soon. Peres further noted that Cyprus can become a significant center for the exchange of ideas and trade.

U.S. Blockade Decision Lifts Obstacle to Peace Role

PM1105091294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "United States Informs Jordan of Decision To Lift al-'Aqabah Blockade"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Authoritative Jordanian sources said yesterday that the United States has informed Jordan of the decision to lift the blockade imposed on al-'Aqabah port and its acceptance of Jordan's proposal calling for sending international civilian inspectors to inspect cargoes after they have been unloaded in the port.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the U.S. decision, which opens the door to Jordan's resumption of negotiations with Israel, came in a message sent by Secretary of State Warren Christopher the evening of the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

Official sources have said that the U.S. decision to end sea inspection operations by U.S. ships in the Strait of Tiran "removes a major obstacle to an effective Jordanian role in reactivating the peace process in the future." King Husayn had made it conditional that the blockade be lifted before his country can resume peace negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

U.S. Conditions for Ship Verifications Noted

JN1105095894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 May 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Representatives of the British organisation Lloyds Register are expected to arrive in Jordan in two weeks to start the process of land-based verifications of al-'Aqabah-based shipping which will replace the sea-inspection operations expected to end before the end of the month, Western diplomats said Tuesday [10 May].

The diplomats said the imminent lifting of the siege on al-'Aqabah would open the door for Jordan's resumption of its "important" role in the peace process and would allow for its participation in the next round of bilateral peace talks expected to begin in Washington next month.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Jordan has agreed to pay the estimated $2 to 3 million annual fees for the non-profit Lloyds Register but the United States is insisting that the payments be made through the United Nations so that Jordan "will not be able to influence the organisation."

They said Washington was also insisting that Lloyds Register establish a direct link with the U.N. Sanctions Committee in order to supervise exports to Iraq that are permitted by the trade embargo on Baghdad.

Among other "minor technicalities" still under negotiations between Jordan and the U.S. and other members of the multilateral interdiction forces enforcing the naval blockade on al-'Aqabah is a mechanism through which member countries of the force will be able to inspect Lloyds Register's operations, the sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

Though no Security Council resolution is needed to change the mechanism through which al-'Aqabah-bound shipping is being checked under Security Council Resolution 665, the diplomats said consultations among member states of the council are required, adding that these consultations are underway already in New York.

The U.S. on Sunday reportedly communicated to Jordan its formal acceptance of the Kingdom's proposal to replace the sea-inspection with land-based verifications through a letter sent by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The U.S. decision came few days after France decided to pull out from the force enforcing the blockade on al-'Aqabah and Canada reportedly rejected an American request that Canadians replace the French in this task.

The Western diplomats said France saw no reason for the continuation of the sea-inspection operations since the Jordanian proposal provided a fitting alternative and found no justification for Washington's procrastination in implementing the proposal which was made by the Kingdom in January.

Jordan had earlier linked its participation in the peace talks with the lifting of the siege on al-'Aqabah which many officials described as pressure on Jordan to force it into entering a separate peace accord with Israel.

Informed sources say the U.S. Congress, which "has not yet forgiven" the Kingdom for its opposition to the Gulf war coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991 and some U.S. security agencies which "do not trust Jordan" have been behind the delay in lifting the siege on al-'Aqabah.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani confirmed Tuesday that the Jordanian government has received confirmation from the concerned American authorities that Washington had approved the Jordanian proposal.

He said the next steps were to reach a final agreement with Lloyds Register to determined the methods of observing cargo entering al-'Aqabah. This might be achieved within the coming three weeks, he said.

Dr al-'Anani said that the representative of Lloyds Register would not be inspecting ships, but will be monitoring incoming cargo when they are opened at the port to make sure that they conform to the cargo manifests.

Talks With PLO on Economic Accord Open 10 May

JN1005102294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 May pp 1, 10

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) begin talks today on detailing the economic agreement they signed on Jan. 7. The talks are expected to be characterised by "requests for clarifications" before the two sides draw the mechanisms for the implementation of the accord, particularly that the PLO signed an economic agreement with Israel in April after months of negotiations in Paris.

Officials said the talks would go deep into the practical implementation of the Jan. 7 Jordan-PLO accord and that the Kingdom's delegates would be seeking clarifications on the implications for Jordan of the Paris accord.

Ahmad Quray', head of the economic department of the PLO, and five other Palestinian economists are expected to be in the PLO delegation to the talks.

Describing the Jan 7 agreement as a "broad framework agreement," PLO officials told the JORDAN TIMES in Jerusalem that the two sides should now negotiate a detailed Jordanian-PLO economic accord based on the previous broad framework. They said amendments may be needed in the accord in light of the new powers Palestinians have gained in the Paris economic talks with Israelis.

"There are answers and details that we would like to have from the Palestinian negotiators," said an official, adding that only then "can we, in Jordan, play a positive role to serve the Palestinian people on a scientific and acceptable basis that also protects Jordanian and Palestinian interests."

This and other senior officials said Jordan needs to clarify details of the PLO-Israel agreement and other economic arrangements that the PLO had struck before the Kingdom draws up a detailed accord with the PLO.

The quest for these clarifications carries in its folds many of the fears that Jordanian officials have been trying to keep hidden pending the arrival of Mr. Quray' in Jordan.

These fears began when the PLO signed the Oslo agreement with Israel without prior consultation with Jordan and have been repeatedly underlined since that time as the PLO shied away from committing itself to anything with Jordan before concluding its negotiations with Israel.

Repeatedly since then, Jordanian officials have been asking the PLO to coordinate its steps with the Kingdom to avoid hurting the interests of Jordan but at the same time had tried to extend support to the Palestinian negotiators so as not to undermine their negotiations with Israel.

At one time, His Majesty King Husayn issued an ultimatum to the PLO calling on it to coordinate an economic agreement with Jordan by a set date or all coordination would be called off.

In response, the Palestinians showed up on the set deadline date and reached the Jan. 7 agreement with Jordan, setting out a general framework for economic cooperation that at the time was seen as "a letter of intent" rather than a binding agreement.

When the details of the PLO-Israel economic agreement were first announced, Jordan officially welcomed the agreement as having achieved "symbols of sovereignty for the Palestinians."

Minister of Finance Sami Qummuh at the time told the JORDAN TIMES that the PLO should be credited for making gains that underline its independence and he rejected charges that the PLO-Israel agreement contradicted the agreement reached with Jordan.

However, other officials had expressed reservations about the agreement and questioned its ramifications on Jordan.

Mr. Quray', aware of the Jordanian fears, sought to dispel them by making statements at the time denying that the agreement annulled the Jordan-PLO economic agreement.

"It looks like the Palestinians kept us at bay with an unbinding economic agreement until they went and strengthened their hand with the Israel-PLO Paris agreement," economist Fahd al-Fanik said.

"They feel that they have a stronger bargaining position with this Paris agreement," he said, adding that Jordan "now has the choice of taking it or leaving it."

Another economist, who asked he not be named, said that the PLO move to force Jordan's hand with the Paris agreement and asking Jordan to agree to a "compatible" agreement with it "is an attempt to force us into Benelux-type arrangements."

Benelux, a 1960 agreement creating economic integration between Belgium the Netherlands and Luxembourg, is an idea that was floated as an option for a similar arrangement between Jordan, Palestinian territories and Israel.

"The Palestinian negotiator is trying to make the Jordanian decisionmaker consider the idea of economic integration similar to Benelux in terms of making the Jordan-PLO agreement compatible with the Israel-PLO agreement," the economist said.

"It is very clear that PLO-Israel agreement should not be used as a pressure card against Jordan," he said.

The Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee, apparently in response to the fears created by the Paris agreement in economic circles in Jordan, has requested

copies of both the Israel-PLO economic agreement and the Jordan-PLO agreement as well as the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, head of the Finance Committee, told the JORDAN TIMES Monday that this request came to "hold the proper discussions with the government and concerned officials and draw a policy that will reflect constructively on the Jordanian and the Palestinian people."

"There is fear that the Jordan-PLO agreement has become a subsidiary agreement to the PLO-Israel agreement," Mr. Abu al-Raghib said "when this appears to be the case, it can only draw suspicion and depression in economic circles," he added.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib agreed with Jordanian officials that "proper elaboration of what happened in Paris is needed." Otherwise, he added, "Jordan's mixed economy can only suffer and this will reflect negatively on the people both Palestinian and Jordanian."

"As representatives of the people we cannot sit back and watch," he said, making an appeal that the interest of the people be dealt with "the highest and utmost responsibility and patriotism."

"Otherwise it will reflect negatively on both sides," he said.

Al-Majali, Quray Discuss Economic Ties

JN1005200794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today conferred with Mr. Ahmad Quray', the PLO's Economic Department chief. The meeting at the Prime Ministry was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, state minister for cabinet affairs and information minister. The sides discussed economic relations between Jordan and Palestine and looked into ways to develop them further.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee met at the Prime Ministry today, with Jawad al-'Anani and Ahmad Quray' leading their respective sides. The talks addressed economic issues, specifically trade, banking, monetary matters, and customs.

Mr. Quray' told reporters the committee also had an in-depth look at economic issues. The committee is to meet for further discussions tomorrow:

[Begin recording] [Quray'] Our discussions addressed the nitty-gritty of Palestinian-Jordanian economic relations and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We agreed that the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement is key to our ties. We will have another session tomorrow.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement undergo any changes to suit the PLO-Israeli economic accord?

[Quray'] Whatever changes are made will enhance the agreement.

[Correspondent] Meaning there are changes?

[Quray'] Whatever changes are made will be to enhance and flesh out the agreement. The core of the agreement will remain intact.

[Correspondent] Do you think a new agreement or new protocols may be worked out between Jordan and the PLO?

[Quray'] Certain committees may be revitalized. The existing agreement is the basis.

[Correspondent] What remains to be discussed further between you and Jordan?

[Quray'] Banking, money, trade, customs—these are the talking points that must be thrashed out in a manner that should advance and upgrade the distinguished and brotherly ties between Jordan and Palestine.

[Correspondent] Do you think the Palestinian-Israeli agreement limits the scope for your economic cooperation with Jordan?

[Quray'] On the contrary, I think this agreement has helped put the Jordanian-Palestinian accord into practice. True, the agreement does not satisfy our demands in full, but the door remains open for us to press for our rights, which we will regain gradually. The talks focused on the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. It is now clear and spelled out in the agreement. [end recording]

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Self-Rule Agreement

JN1005153294 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 10 May 94 p 3

[Statement issued by the Information Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan; date not given]

[Text] O ye that believe, betray not the trust of Allah and the Messenger, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you. [Koranic verse]

The self-rule agreement signed by the domineering leadership of the PLO and the Zionist enemy is the latest regrettable and disgraceful chapter in a series of concessions to the Zionist enemy that are selling out the rights of the Arab and Islamic nations in general and the Palestinian people in particular—concessions which include the dearest spot on earth, which is second only to holy Mecca and Medina and which represents a dear element in our true Islam.

The large official Arab and Islamic presence at the signing ceremony bore witness to the recognition of the Zionist enemy and its usurpation of our sacred territory, including the first of the two Qiblahs [direction to which a Muslim direct his prayers] and Islam's third holiest mosque. This signing came in preparation for the establishment of the

Greater Israel project and the realization of the dreams of world Zionism and its colonialist supporters, which are panting after the wealth of the Islamic east.

The signing of the self-rule agreement is a clear violation of the nation's rights and constant principles, a challenge to the will of the Palestinian people, a betrayal of their blessed intifadah, and a treacherous act against the Palestinian people's steadfast jihad and righteous martyrs.

The Muslim Brotherhood declares its denunciation of this agreement, as well as its innocence of its provisions, and that it knows it will be forgiven by Almighty God because it warned and announced to all the Islamic and Arab peoples that it rejects this agreement and the likes of it, that it will use every legitimate and available means to regain rights, and that its stresses the following principles of the Muslim Brotherhood:

1. Palestine, as well as all Arab and Islamic lands, are for the nation and the future generations, and no one has the right to relinquish any part of them under any pretext.

2. We condemn and reject all forms of current and previous negotiations, as well as all agreements with the enemy occupier, as a betrayal of God, His messenger, and the faithful, and as a breach of God's orders and the teachings of His messenger, peace be upon him, that forbid the relinquishment of any inch of Islamic land, let alone Palestine's blessed land.

3. Proceeding from our Islamic principles and our commitment to our religion and our homeland, we declare our hatred and rejection of that agreement and the likes of it, which are part of a plan to liquidate the Palestine question and the Arab and Islamic causes in the interest of the enemies of Islam, the Arab nation, and the homeland.

4. We declare our denunciation of the current Arab and Islamic participation in opening the doors of the Arab and Islamic world to normalization of relations with the Jewish enemy and to holding meetings with Jewish delegations as part of a series of concessions and relinquishments of the nation's rights.

5. We reject all forms of surrender to the American program, which some Arab leaders are trying to peddle to peoples under the pretext of pressures and threats. We also demand that the Arab leaders implement their slogans calling for entrenching Arab dignity and strength and enabling the nation to be lofty and proud.

6. We urge the masses of our Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular to support the militant forces on the land of Palestine, which reject surrender to the enemy and which are seeking a total liberation of the Palestinian soil from the filth of the Jews—forces which include the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

7. We reaffirm that the only way to liberate Palestine and all the Arab and Islamic territories and to restore the nation's dignity and strength is to launch a holy jihad, which is a duty as long as an inch of Islamic land is occupied. Leaders are responsible for preparing the future generations for that militant duty and for achieving true unity. Any deviation from this path will serve the projects of the enemies of God, His messenger, and the faithful. But honor belongs to God and His apostle, and to the believers, but the hypocrites know not. [Koranic verse] God will certainly aid those who aid his cause; for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might. [Koranic verse].

King Greets Nationals Returning From Sanaa

JN1005162794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpts] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur were on hand to greet the passengers of two Jordanian Royal Air Force planes upon their return from Yemen today. Details in the following report by Kassab Samawi from Amman airport:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur were on hand to welcome back Jordanian nationals, who returned to the homeland aboard transport planes of the Jordanian Royal Air Force. There were around 300 men, women, and children aboard the C-130's, plus a number of Arabs and foreigners, that made a nonstop six-hour flight from Sanaa Airport to Amman across Saudi Arabian airspace. [passage omitted]

How was the journey and how did you go about bringing the Jordanian nationals from Yemen?

[Unidentified pilot] Thanks be to God, we were instructed by his majesty the king to fly to Yemen to fly home the Jordanian nationals there. We set up the necessary arrangements, including preparing the planes, and obtaining the requisite clearances to overfly other countries. Thanks to God, we took off for Sanaa this morning where we touched down at around 1000 Amman time. The situation was not exactly comfortable. When we touched down the Jordanian ambassador and the military attache were on hand to greet us. All the arrangements were excellent. We had the passengers get on board fairly quickly so we could take off as soon as possible, given the potential risks in view of the current state of affairs in Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Samawi] Your Majesty the King: Yemen's crisis has always been on your mind and you have always sought to keep the situation from becoming as it is now. As you receive returning Jordanians, would you care to comment on the developments in Yemen?

[Husayn] I cannot express how saddened and pained I am over what is happening, measured against our expectations for the reconciliation that we sought to bring about. We call on God to spare Yemen further devastation and safeguard the country's national unity. I hope Yemen's current troubles will give way to a happier era for the country and all our brothers there.

[Samawi] Is there anything that Jordan can do at this point in time to arrest the deterioration in sisterly Yemen?

[Husayn] We will do what we can. A medical team travelled to Yemen with the planes that flew there to pick up Jordanians from Sanaa. We hope this unnecessary bloodletting will stop.

[Samawi] Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Samawi] A number of wounded from the two opposing sides are now receiving medical treatment at the al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman. [end recording]

Prime Minister Leads Welcoming Party

JN1005191894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] More Jordanians have arrived from Yemen at Queen Alia Airport, where the prime minister was on hand to welcome them back. Details in the following report by Kassab Samawi:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali led the welcoming party at the airport for 117 Jordanian and other Arab nationals who arrived from Sanaa this evening aboard a Royal Jordanian Airlines plane. The prime minister shook hands with each of the Jordanians and Arabs.

[Al-Majali] As you know, his majesty the king is particularly sensitive to humanitarian issues, as much with regard to non-Jordanians as Jordanians. Of course, in this case, given that there is a large number of Jordanians in Yemen, his majesty ordered that military and civilian planes be sent to evacuate whoever wished to be evacuated, particularly women and children. Four planes have thus far made the trip there and back. We are in constant contact with our ambassador in Sanaa to keep us posted. His majesty ordered that medicines be dispatched to Yemen. A well-trained and well-equipped medical team has travelled to Yemen to help out. [end recording]

Senate Deplores Events in Yemen, Urges Dialogue

JN1005172594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Senate has issued a statement deeply deploring the sad events pitting brother against brother in Yemen. The Senate, the statement said, regrets the high toll of casualties and the scale of destruction caused to the infrastructure that was built thanks to the sacrifices of the brotherly Yemeni people as they marched toward unity, development, and construction. The Senate called on the Yemeni brothers to let wisdom and dialogue prevail and address the roots of their disagreements to preserve the country's unity and spare the lives of Yemenis so that they can pursue the process of unity and construction and Yemen can continue to play its key pan-Arab role.

National Airline Suspends Flights to Sanaa, Aden

JN0705063894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 May p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Elia Nasrallah]

[Excerpt] Amman—Royal Jordanian's [RJ] twice weekly flights to Sanaa and Aden in north and south Yemen are suspended until the airports in the Arab country are officially operating normally again, according to a spokesman for the national airline Friday [6 May].

The military in Yemen have taken control of the airports and closed them to civilian flights until further notice; until then no RJ aircraft can fly to Yemen, Munib Toukan, RJ assistant vice president for public relations, told the JORDAN TIMES. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Cabinet Session Proceedings

JN0705135894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has chaired a cabinet meeting on a number of issues. Dr. al-Majali briefed cabinet ministers on the visit to Amman by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his talks with his majesty the king. He also gave a report on the visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, who has pledged his country's support to the kingdom in various aspects.

During the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Talal al-Hasan, presented a report on the signing of the PLO-Israel agreement on implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. al-Hasan represented Jordan in the signing ceremony in Cairo on Wednesday.

Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf submitted a report on a Jordanian-French cooperation seminar held in Paris. She asserted France's desire to develop economic and investment cooperation in the public and private sectors.

The cabinet also listened to a report by Minister of Education Khalid al-'Umari on the meetings of UNESCO's executive council held in Paris. He said the council has underlined educational programs for all and the importance of democracy and international tolerance.

Cabinet ministers discussed other issues on the agenda and took appropriate measures.

Prime Minister Confirms Intent To Remain at Home

NC1005142094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Beirut, 10 May (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has confirmed his insistence on staying at home, not carrying out his duties, and clinging to his stance on making major changes in his government.

In statements made today, he said that he is determined to implement his changes and that he will not accept any mediation that would keep the government situation unchanged no matter what the consequences.

Al-Hariri explained that his proposal of a ministerial reshuffle by increasing the cabinet members from 30 to 34 and enlarging the Christian representation in his new government aims to secure the government under unstable domestic and regional circumstances and to enhance national unity.

The Lebanese prime minister said he seeks to liberate the executive authority from interventions and pressure and that the country's domestic situation can no longer tolerate the policy of settlements and blackmail of the state's interests.

In his statements, he disclosed existing differences between his ministers' stances, which have caused problems in the government's solidarity. He openly charged that some of his ministers have been unproductive and contentious and called for ending the Christians' boycott of participation in the executive authority.

Main Christian parties, such as the Phalangist Party, the National Bloc Party, and the National Liberal Party, rejected participating in any new government led by al-Hariri in the presence of the current Chamber of Deputies, which they describe as illegitimate after they boycotted the parliamentary elections in August 1992.

Al-Hariri, who is staying home for the second day, asked some of his supporters who demonstrated yesterday asking him to change his mind about staying home to stop these demonstrations, warning of any incidents by some suspicious elements that might harm the security situation in the country.

The Lebanese Interior Ministry today issued a statement banning any demonstrations without prior license.

Informed Lebanese circles believe that the current atmosphere on the street might usher in an open confrontation between the legislative and executive authorities since Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri called today for a plenary session of the chamber on 25 and 26 May without defining an agenda for the session.

These circles fear that the exchange of criticism between the government officials might escalate, now that the cabinet crisis is threatening a political crisis between the leadership of the presidency, the Chamber of Deputies, and the cabinet. But some optimistic circles expect Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to play a decisive role in resolving this crisis after he returns to Damascus from Johannesburg tomorrow evening, Wednesday.

These circles do not rule out the possibility of holding an expanded summit meeting in Damascus attended by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Nabih Birri, and Rafiq al-Hariri, as well as by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a necessary step to stop this crisis from escalating.

Cabinet Differences Detailed

PM0905154194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Al-Hariri Stays Away and Refrains From Carrying Out Any Official Activity"]

[Text] Paris, Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed political sources in Beirut said yesterday that a new crisis has emerged between (President) al-Hirawi, (Chamber of Deputies Speaker) Birri, and (Prime Minister) al-Hariri as a result of differences of opinion regarding the question of changing some ministers and some portfolios in the current cabinet.

One of the first results of that crisis, according to reports circulating in Beirut's political and information circles, is that al-Hariri is staying away and refraining from carrying out his official duties.

It has been learned that the prime minister cancelled a television interview which was scheduled to be broadcast on the official television network yesterday evening, without giving any reasons.

Al-Hirawi had, on his latest visit to Damascus, sought the opinion of the Syrian authorities regarding the reshuffle issue. It seems that Damascus does not favor a complete change of government but has no objection to a limited reshuffle in the interest of more effective government work to fulfill current requirements at home and abroad.

It has been claimed that the differences between the Lebanese state leaders concern individuals as well as portfolios and that what is needed is not just replacement of the some of the current ministers with new ones but also a change of the portfolios of some of the current ministers while at the same time keeping them in the cabinet.

Some sources hinted that each of the three leaders wants to improve his position in the government and increase his share in it by having people close to him or considered loyal to him in the cabinet. One of the declared aims and reasons for the partial and limited reshuffle is to restore the Christians' confidence in the government by broadening representation and participation in the government through inclusion of individuals so far considered to be members of the opposition.

The parties tipped to join the government include the Phalangist Party led by George Sa'adah and the National Bloc Party led by Raymond Iddih. It has been learned that the first does not object but the second has reservations and might refuse to have one of its members in the cabinet.

Ministers Visit al-Hariri at Residence

NC1005194594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Lebanese figures continued today to visit Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at his home in Quraytim. He received ministers Marwan Hamadah, Elie Hubayqah, Muhsin Dallul, Jean 'Ubayd, and Walid Junblatt at 2000 today.

After the meeting, Minister Junblatt stressed that Prime Minister al-Hariri wants to give new momentum to cope with the political, security, and refugee problems. He said:

[Begin recording] [Junblatt] In my view, the prime minister is not deliberately staying home but he complains, as we do, of certain aspects of the government's performance. We joined this government with hopes of becoming involved in development, reconstruction, housing, refugees, and security. We succeeded in certain areas and did not quite succeed in others, especially in the social area, where there are considerable shortcomings. I would like to remind you that I was the first official to call for a reshuffle or change in this government. All that the prime minister wants is to reach this goal, to give this or any other government a new momentum to cope with the political, security, and refugee problems. I would like to remind you that through the security agencies and the Lebanese Army we have succeeded in quelling a major sedition in the country. The judiciary is doing its work independently of any pressure. All that Prime Minister al-Hariri wants is to continue. Perhaps there are certain circumstances that I cannot disclose now [sentence left incomplete]

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Do you expect a partial solution to the prime minister's decision to stay home?

[Junblatt] I have just given my views on this issue. It is up to the prime minister. [end recording]

Columnist Assails Prime Minister's Actions

NC1105102094 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 10 May 94 p 1

[Column by Rafiq Khuri: "A 'Strike' by a Ruler and the 'Resignation' of a People"]

[Excerpts] It is the prime minister's right to rule or resign, not to drop his political duties. It is his duty, if he cannot rule and resign all at once or if he does not want to rule yet does not want to resign, to tell the people why he has decided not to perform his duties. Spelling things out is the least a man should do. But if this is difficult, the motive behind the prime minister's decision to stay home should certainly not be to get the various groups to rally round to declare their adherence to al-Hariri, to claim that he is indispensable. This is the case whether the decision not to perform his duties is halfway to resignation or, in the other direction, to strengthening his role in office. It is also the case whether the outcome is his return to business as usual or to changing the people he works with. [passage omitted]

The formula is very simple. If what is required is to amend the representation of leaders inside the government, then there is no need for a crisis over things that neither add to nor subtract from the situation. If the objective is to rectify the popular representation inside the government, then what is needed is much more than just the appointment of two more ministers to the Cabinet. The Christian situation in Lebanon cannot be resolved through a little game. And the Christian situation in Lebanon cannot be resolved without addressing the entire Lebanese situation. The Lebanese situation has many problems, including imbalanced political and social positions, and a virtual absence of national equality. Political life here is dormant. The increasing internal and external debts, taxes, and fines fall on the shoulders of the poor alone. The Middle East peace settlement circumvents Lebanon amid fears that the settlement will apply to and include Lebanon. When Prime Minister al-Hariri says he can no longer tolerate the situation, what should those who are caught in the middle of the struggle over power between the warlords and the money barons do?

Whatever the case, a public crisis is better than a covert one. Perhaps our case is similar to Dr. Kissinger's. After heart surgery, he said mockingly: This proves that I have a heart. Between their joking and their serious moments, can the Lebanese claim that the crisis proves that politics exist in Lebanon?

'Terrorists' Fire Missiles at Israeli Helicopters

TA1105104094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Terrorists fired antiaircraft missiles at Israel Air Force helicopters operating in south Lebanon yesterday and this morning. The missiles missed their targets. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports this is the first time that the terrorists have fired missiles at IDF helicopters. Sources in south Lebanon reported that this morning there were fire exchanges between the terrorists and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the al-Qantarah and Bint Jubayl areas.

Yemenis Urged To Resort to 'Dialogue, Reason'

JN0705121294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0448 GMT 7 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] In an article today under the headline "Yemen's Unity First," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Yemeni people have no interest in the shedding of brothers' blood and the destruction of civil and military installations.

It says: Certainly, it is not the Yemeni people who ordered aircraft and tanks to bombard and shell military units and airports in the south and the north. The Yemenis, who restored unity to both parts of their country, did so without firing one single bullet, and without fighting between military units from the northern or southern parts. They have restored the confidence of the Arab masses in the possibility of achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Why has the language of violence and blood become the only language between parties in the coalition government in Yemen? Why has Yemen quickly slipped into a comprehensive war, in which the air force, tanks, and other weapons were used? This war has claimed the lives of hundreds of peoples and inflicted grave losses on the country.

The paper says: What is taking place in fraternal Yemen confirms that the bloodshed is not in the interest of the country. The blood of the homeland's sons is the possession of this homeland. Safeguarding Yemen's unity cannot take place by escalating the crisis and expanding battlefields. The Yemenis have restored their unity. So, why are they forced to separate and partition their country with guns and aircraft? Who will be responsible for the bleeding from the arteries of both the southern and northern Yemeni people?

AL-THAWRAH stresses: The Yemeni leadership had better take into account the difficult situation the Arab nation is experiencing in its battle with Israel, which adheres to the ideology of expansion and of fragmenting the Arab nation. This is especially true since the bloody Yemeni events will further weaken the Arab position, when the nation is seeing cases of capitulation to the Israeli enemy, and the reception of its civil and military delegations in some Arab capitals.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: In the same way that Yemen's unity is the possession of the Yemeni people, it is also the possession of the entire Arab nation. The Yemeni leadership is responsible for safeguarding and reinforcing it through the adoption of principles and the establishment of the state of institutions and law. Arabs, through the Arab League, are also called upon to stand on the side of their Yemeni brothers and to assist them so they can overcome threats to their unity and to stop the shedding of their blood. The interest of Yemen and the Yemenis must be placed above all other considerations.

In its editorial today under the headline "Yemeni Unity Is More Important Than People", the newspaper TISHRIN writes on the development of the political conflict in Yemen into armed clashes in which the air force and artillery are taking place, as if the country was heading toward a civil war.

TISHRIN says: Syria has several times appealed to the brothers in Yemen to resort to dialogue, reason, national logic, and pan-Arab conscience, and to reject means of violence. President Hafiz al-Asad has more than once contacted Yemeni officials and urged them to resort to reason and wisdom, and to put the Yemeni people's interests above any other considerations.

TISHRIN stresses that the Yemeni people's interests lie in their unity, and that a fragmented and bleeding Yemen is an element of weakness for Yemenis and the Arab nation. It says: Had the Arabs been united today, taking into consideration that they are one nation, they would not have been in a weak position to sign something that conflicts with their people's aspirations and nation's objectives, and to yield to the dictates of foreigners, invaders, and those who covet their land and resources.

TISHRIN adds: The simplest Yemeni or Arab citizen knows full well that Yemen's interests lie in its unity and cohesion among its citizens. So, how can Yemeni officials ignore this? They are supposed to be an example to be followed, not a tool for the destruction of the unity of one people.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria, along with all Arabs, appeals to the brothers in Yemen to resort to the language of dialogue and reason, not the language of aircraft, tanks, and guns. Nothing is more painful than fighting among the sons of the one country. Arabs have in Lebanon's bitter experience something which should be an eloquent lesson for anyone willing to learn a lesson.

Afghanistan

President, Foreign Minister Meet Pakistani Envoy

LD0905173594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received today Mr. Amir Usman, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the course of this meeting, talks were held and views were exchanged on expansion and consolidation of relations between the two countries and on other topics of mutual interest.

Also, according to another report, Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this morning in his office with Esteemed Amir Usman, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the course of this meeting, both sides discussed various issues, including the reopening of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul.

Further Talks Held 10 May

BK1005160194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Pakistani Ambassador Amir Usman called on Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul today and exchanged views with him on the development of bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. The Pakistani ambassador also met Najibollah Lafra'i, Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs, and held talks on reopening the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul.

Captured U.S. Correspondent Handed Over to Red Cross

LD0705172794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan today handed over an American citizen who had entered Afghanistan illegally to a Red Cross representative in Kabul. According to a report by a BIA correspondent, Mrs. Maria Korolov who is a REUTER news agency reporter, had entered Afghanistan via Tajikistan. She was arrested by the security authorities in Kundoz and was transferred to Kabul. The Red Cross expressed appreciation for this humanitarian action carried out by the government of Afghanistan+. The Red Cross added that Mrs. Korolov will soon be leaving for her home country.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan requested that all citizens of foreign countries, who intend to visit Afghanistan, obtain a visa through political representations of Afghanistan abroad and then enter Afghanistan. Otherwise, those who violate the law, will be dealt with in accordance with the current laws in the country.

BBC Report on 'Heavy' Fighting in Kabul Denied

LD0705191094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 94

[Excerpt] In the last two days, the situation in Kabul city has been relatively calm and no clashes have taken place between the forces of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan and the opposition. A BIA correspondent who visited various parts of the city today, says that today too, as yesterday, the military situation in the city was calm. Taking advantage of this normal situation, the people of Kabul were able to obtain their supplies of goods and visit their relatives. Although no official cease-fire has been declared, there has been no reports of occurrence of any fighting. The BIA correspondent, quoting official sources of the country, rejects a report by the BBC radio concerning the upsurge of heavy fighting and the exchanges of missiles, machine-gun, and heavy weaponry that was alleged to have taken place in central Kabul yesterday between the government forces and opposition. The report was considered as unfounded and far from the truth. [passage omitted]

Fighting Continues Between Rival Forces in Baghlan

LD0905180794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Fighting between the forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the joint forces of General Dostam and Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar still continues in the northern province of Baghlan. Hekmatyar's forces have announced that they had repulsed an extensive offensive by the forces loyal the president on Baghlan city. Afghanistan's Defense Ministry also announced that a military transport aircraft belonging to General Dostam was fired at and crashed, killing all passengers.

India

Rao Urged To Be 'Firm Yet Flexible' With U.S.

BK0605124594 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 4 May 94 p 6

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam: "A Time To Be Firm Yet Flexible"]

[Text] A sense of unease is shared by a large number of observers about the forthcoming visit by the prime minister to the US. This arises out of the asymmetric situation in which it is well known what the US demands are. But it is not clear to the Indian Parliament and the people what the Indian prime minister will demand from the US President or what his replies will be in respect of likely US demands. Indian leadership has a tradition of being defensive and adhocist. Consequently Parliament and the public are rarely taken into confidence what our bottom lines are on various issues. Parliament is usually reassured that the government will stand firm and will

not yield to any pressure or even soothed that there are no pressures at all, only suggestions, preferred desires of other nations.

From the US side there are three demands. Firstly, on Kashmir they would like India to discuss the problem with Pakistanis and Kashmiris (without being precise about whom they are referring to) and bring to an end the violence in the valley. Secondly, to ask India to enter into some regime of nuclear restraint and not to deploy missiles. Thirdly, on the commercial side they would press India to shorten the transition periods in respect of various TRIPS [trade-related intellectual property rights] related items even as they try not to shorten the transition periods in respect of textile quotas. It is likely the US will take the offensive on these three issues. The Indian response could be just defensive: to indulge in stonewalling and then claim that the government of India had stood firm. An alternative could be to be evasive, vague in our responses and then drag on the issues over a period of time. This runs the risk of US side resorting to "Salami-slicing" tactics and try to extract small but meaningful concessions at a time from India. This is what the parliamentarians and media observers are worried about.

It will be generally uncharacteristic of our way of functioning if the prime minister is to take the initiative in respect of the three issues mentioned or even launch counter offensives in these areas. Though this is considered unlikely it is worthwhile examining. Let us take the Kashmir issue. Today Kashmir has to be viewed as part of a larger worldwide phenomenon of assertion of extremist ethno-nationalism by a section of the people in Kashmir valley, supported by Pakistan with men, money and materials. Kashmir in this respect is not an isolated issue. There are similar problems in Bosnia, Kosovo, Transylvania, Ukraine, Abkhazia, Nagorno Karabakh, Kurdistan, Baluchistan, Iranian Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Sindh and various Central Asian Republics. Does US have a policy in respect of such ethno-nationalist demands? Have the US government thought through the issue of ethno-nationalist forces being unleashed in various parts of the world? In the light of some of the pronouncements of US officials on Kashmir, will Russia be justified in drawing the inference the Russian minorities in all former Soviet republics have the right of self-determination?

Secondly there was a recent article of the national security adviser to the US President Mr Anthony Lake, in the Foreign Affairs quarterly which advocated a policy of dual containment of Iran and Iraq. The article was conspicuous by the absence of any mention of Pakistan and it is obvious there can be no containment of Iran without Pakistan playing a role in it. Mr Lake has to be taken seriously because of his official position. Is the US policy towards Pakistan, including the efforts to give one time waiver from Pressler amendment related to its containment policy vis-a-vis Iran? India has considerable mutuality of interests with the United States in regard to the free flow of oil from the Gulf, the stability of the Gulf states, containment of Islamic fundamentalism, the drugs flow though the gulf countries and associated terrorism and narco-terrorism. If the US is developing a policy in this area which is linked up with Pakistan's role and consequently its interest in militarily strengthening Pakistan, India will be interested in knowing more about it.

What are the parameters of US policies in regard to drugs, international terrorism and nuclear proliferation in the region given the US interest in the containment of Iran? In the eighties the US according a higher priority to enabling the Afghan mujahideen fight the Soviets in Afghanistan gave a lower priority to these three factors in respect of Pakistan. For India it is highly relevant to know whether that could be repeated. It will be necessary to probe the US assessment of the future of Afghanistan. A break up of Afghanistan will have very serious adverse impact on the stability of Pakistan and is of serious concern to India.

On the nuclear issue the Indian prime minister must seek to ascertain the views of the US President on the perpetuation of the nuclear divide into five nuclear haves and the rest of the nations as have-nots. It must be explained to the US President that such a divide in perpetuity will strike at the very root of the non-proliferation treaty which both in its preamble and article VI has laid down "each of the parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". Therefore India cannot undertake any new commitment beyond what it has unilaterally been following without knowing how the nuclear weapon powers propose to fulfil their obligations under article VI of the NPT even as they extend the treaty. Clarification must be sought from the US: in view of the shared objectives of India and US in bringing about the comprehensive test ban treaty and the cut off of fissile materials, should not both countries intensify those efforts which in fact would be more effective non-proliferation measures than the NPT?

The US administration should be requested to increase its transparency in respect of the Presidential certification about Pakistan not possessing nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices in 1987, 1988 and 1989. General Aslam Beg and other politicians of Pakistan have tended to raise very serious doubts on the credibility of those certifications. If the US were to play any meaningful role in promoting non-proliferation in South Asia then its credibility should not be in doubt. Clinton administration has disclosed details about secret nuclear tests in the past, radio active experiments on human beings, etc. In line with such policy of transparency the opaqueness in respect of Presidential certifications of 1987, 1988 and 1989 needs to be cleared up. None of these questions can be deemed as not being of immediate security relevance to India.

Given the present unease in the country the prime minister can seize the opportunity to strengthen his own bargaining position. He can make a statement in Parliament in which he can define his bottom lines on the various issues and indicate the possible areas for negotiation. For example, he can state that India would not discuss any capping, reduction or elimination of its nuclear capability except in the context of a nondiscriminatory treaty on the model of convention to ban and eliminate all chemical weapons. India is prepared to discuss various measures of nuclear restraint on a mutual basis among all nuclear capable neighbours in Asia. That will be a combination of firm policy with appropriate negotiating flexibility. He can always blame Parliament for not being able to make concessions.

U.S. Regional Nonproliferation Policy Condemned

BK0905053494 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 May 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Fairy Tales in US Policy"]

[Text] There is no mistaking the escalating intimidation of India as Washington prepares to receive P.V. Narasimha Rao. After the firm reiteration by the Under-Secretary of State, Lynn Davis, of the US resolve to go through with the supply of F-16s in return for capping Pakistan's nuclear programme, the Chairman of the House of Foreign Affairs Committee, Lee Hamilton, has fired a more menacing missile at New Delhi. If Davis ostensibly tried to put the record straight without undue provocation, the high-ranking Democratic Congressman had no difficulty in taking a sledgehammer approach. Hamilton convinced himself that the cause of nuclear non-proliferation is so great, that he, as a prominent law-maker of the lane superpower is entitled to put India in its place. Quite forgetting the US's shameful record on the subject in north-east Asia.

China is unabashedly a nuclear-weapons power and so the US has realised the limits of its capacity to brow-beat that country into meekly falling in line on the non-proliferation issue. But Washington has found it next to impossible so far to whip even North Korea into obedience although it is only suspected to be trying to achieve nuclear-weapons capability. After months of threatening Kim Il Sung of dire consequences if he refuses to permit full inspection of his nuclear facilities, the Clinton administration seems to be toying with the idea of defusing the tension on the Korean peninsula, at least for the time being, by going some way to placate the communist dictator. What else could be the meaning of the recent statement of the Defence Secretary, William Perry, when he says the US aims "to try to keep North Korea from getting a significant nuclear weapons capability". The climb-down makes a mockery of the American alarm over the suspected North Korean nuclear programme in the past year.

It is difficult to resist the impression that it is non-proliferation idealism rather than a realistic appraisal of apprehended nuclear dangers that has prompted specific US policies towards each area in question. This factor coupled with Clinton's desperate need to register a notable foreign policy triumph—especially a clear headway in giving an impetus to non-proliferation—is really behind the American fixation about the assumed nuclear confrontation in South Asia. Recently Shanghai hosted a conference of experts from China, Pakistan, India and the US on the nuclear issue in Asia. According to the former Indian Foreign Secretary, A. P. Venkateswaran, Indian as well as Pakistani participants in the conference stated categorically that there is no likelihood of a nuclear conflict between their countries. It is time Clinton took a second look at his list of priorities. If he does so sincerely, there is just a chance of his realising that there is no case for a cold war against India on the nuclear issue.

Editorial Criticizes 'Secret Talks' With U.S.

BK0605135794 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Talks by Keeping Nation in Darkness]

[Text] The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the missile program are very sensitive issues for India. That is why the so-called secret talks with the United States in London were enough to provoke the parliament. The provocation was logical in the sense that it was borne out of the deep national pride. Of course, secret talks have significance in diplomacy, but on these two issues a prudent Indian society demands absolute openness and full clarification. It is logical to ask as to when the parliament is in session, why it was not taken into confidence on such an important issue. When a newspaper one day suddenly revealed that the government has stopped the development program of 'Agni' missile, the government springs into action and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao makes a statement in the parliament that this has not been done under anybody's pressure and the program is suspended only temporarily, but the answer, perhaps, satisfied no one. The same is true for the government's explanation of the secret talks. We do not consider the United States a villain, but it is neither a trustworthy friend or well-wisher of India. On the U.S. direction Russia banned the sale of cryogenic engine technique to India that has affected our missile development program. When Pakistan has received Chinese M-11 missiles and the U.S. F-16 fighter aircraft—additional consignments are also being planned, stopping the missile program by any logic would be national suicide. Even though, this was the fourth round of secret talks with the United States and the subject of talks was the world disarmament, what was the reason for masking them in secrecy? And, why were the talks held in a third country? If the U.S. delegation had problems coming to New Delhi, the Indian delegation could have gone to the United States. Many other questions remain unanswered. The delegation members included those whose views generally favor India's signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. What does this fact indicate?

Definitely there is something fishy about all this. Then again, the London talks took place in the background of the scheduled Rao-Clinton summit.

There should be no doubt whatsoever that the United States wants total elimination of strategic weapons in South Asia. While U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Talbott is luring Pakistan into capping its nuclear program by promising F-16's, Washington has trapped India into multilateral or five plus two plus two [the five members of the UN Security Council, Japan, Germany, India and Pakistan] talks. Our participation in these talks will mean that we are approving the U.S. policies in South Asia. The government says that the talks have been held with the United States since 1992 for multilateral negotiations on disarmament. Okay, but why is India so eager for such multilateral talks? It is the government's duty to tell the parliament what has been discussed so far with the United States. It should also reiterate the commitment that no agreement will be reached on India's security and strategic interest that is not fully acceptable to the Indian people.

Iran

'Voice of Bosnia' Radio Inaugurated 10 May

Technical Parameters Provided

NC1005194394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic's Radio and Television Corporation deputy director for foreign radio service affairs has announced the inauguration of Voice of Bosnia radio as of tonight.

The aim of the new radio service is to disseminate the voice of the suffering Bosnian people to the world. The Voice of Bosnia radio will begin its broadcast as of 2300 today, Tehran time [1930 GMT], through a 500-kilowatt transmitter and on a wavelength of 31 meters, or a frequency of 9745 kHz.

Khamene'i Addresses Bosnian People

LD1105023094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Serbo- Croatian at 1830 GMT 10 May 94

[Message to the Bosnian people by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] World leaders are sitting and waiting for the victims to take their last breath. These victims are the Muslims of former Yugoslavia, and their only sin is that they are Muslims. We do not just claim this; there is clear evidence to prove it. The reason the world powers are against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina is that it exists as a sovereign and independent state with the ethnic Muslim population in the majority, and the world powers cannot cope with that fact. This is a problem facing Muslims throughout the world because the United Nations and all other world organizations have chosen to behave in the worst possible way in this situation. I declare here that when it comes to the Muslim people, the UN secretary general has tarnished his reputation and will not be able to restore it, no matter what price he is prepared to pay.

Muslims throughout the world saw what was happening in Bosnia, and they said: Sir, because the other side is being helped, allow us to go to Bosnia to help the Muslims. But the answer was: No. The Muslims then said: Allow us to send weapons. The answer was again No, as part of a blatant attempt to deceive the world into believing that no side is being helped. One side has arms, the other is fighting the war without them: one side against the other while the world community, instead of either taking the arms from one side or giving arms to the other, has remained on the sidelines cruelly watching how the wretched ones fall.

They [not further identified] said they would send the blue helmets. The Muslim countries immediately asked that their troops be allowed to take part in the action. But the answer was again: No. It is not just the Islamic Republic of Iran that is not allowed to send troops; not a single Islamic country has been allowed to set off in the direction of Bosnia-Herzegovina. What does this mean? The soldiers sent there have been given orders to help the Serb aggression, but the public is unaware of this. This fact is being concealed from the Muslims. What we are witnessing brings great shame to the Western culture and the civlization that they constantly invoke.

America's behavior and false promises about Bosnia-Herzegovina have yielded no results. All other international organizations and some European countries—England, in particular—have not produced any results either.

A handful of Muslims has been left helpless, waiting for the day they will be butchered. What should the Muslims do? What other path is there, except the hajj? Only people's awareness can destroy the West's insolence. It is not enough for some people or ulemas from several countries to attend conferences all over the world and issue declarations. Hundreds of such declarations have been issued so far. Among them is the one against the Israeli aggressor, but it has not produced any results or helped anyone.

In conclusion, Ayatollah [word indistinct] Khamene'i said that in Mecca during this year's hajj 15 May 1994 was declared [as received] the Day of Bosnia-Herzegovina to protest the suffering of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jannati Pledges 'All Possible Help'

LD1105080394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Serbo- Croatian 1830 GMT 10 May

[Message from Ayatollah Jannati to the Bosnian people; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Thanks to Almighty God, the master of [word indistinct] worlds. Thanks to God, who is allowing and enabling the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the loudest voice of protest against the terror against the Bosnian people, against the ruthlessness and aggressive propaganda from the West, to express our compassion for your terrible and enormous suffering.

Our message to you from here is that, God willing, we will use all of our strength to support you. The great leader of the Islamic revolution has left as his legacy to us the right and obligation as a nation to help all of our neighboring brothers.

The people are ready to offer all possible help, even above their means, not only in the form of propaganda, political, or financial help, but in every way. We hope that other Muslims will also feel the same obligation and that they will remember the suffering your state is experiencing—a state of Muslims, and not a state with just one Muslim community.

Hatred of you is the reason for the Bosnian tragedy that we are watching. This is not a feeling proscribed by Islam or by your faith. This is an aggression against the purity and holiness of Islam and Muslims. This is why all Muslims are firm in their decision to stand by you bravely and resolutely. I am sure that the emissary of Islam, our dear God, shares your pain and suffering, the religious rights and [words indstinct], for you have been the victims of aggression and terror, and because they want to destroy you simply because you are Muslims.

God willing, Muslims will see the light. Muslims are ready to stand before their enemies and oppose them. They must stand up and resist the Serb criminals. They must fight against all forces that remain silent in the face of crime, against the advocates of war who instigate new attacks and aggression. I hope, God willing, that these dark nights will end as soon as possible. The dawn of your victory is coming. We will witness the day when Islam rises and become a mainstay in the area. You will be strong, [word indistinct] with us and other Muslims in the world. God willing, the flag of Islam will be erected there so that the light of Islam can shine in the area.

I humbly pray to Almighty God to give us as soon as possible the gift of living in happiness, beside one another, in prosperity, celebrating our joint success. God willing.

Radio, TV Chief Comments

LD1005210794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The Voice of Bosnia started transmission via the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the final minutes of 9 May.

In an interview with our correspondent Pirhade'i about the reasons for starting the radio program and its effects on the course of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Larijani, the head of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said:

[Begin Larijani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are very glad that thanks to the efforts of the overseas department of the Voice and Vision and those involved in the project, the Bosnian program started, thank God.

Naturally, in the present world conditions, where in the heart of Europe there is an innocent nation whose situation is not understood by any of the superpowers—you have seen in the news these days what they have done to the people of Gorazde. Transmitting the innocent call of those self-sacrificing and hardworking people was our religious duty. Because of the goal of the Islamic revolution in broadcasting the message of Muslims, it was a necessary task. We were able to make preparations quickly to start the program.

The program is transmitted at 2300 hours Tehran time [1930 GMT] every night, on 9745 kHz, 31 m wave band, which is about 2030 hours their time. We are trying to expand the program. We hope that we will quickly be able to make preparations to expand the program.

Of course, a great deal of effort went into the task, because they could not speak Persian well and had not received the necessary training. There were, naturally, problems for us in terms of translation. However, certain measures have been taken and I hope that the program will be expanded soon.

Undoubtedly such programs could have very favorable results in sending useful information to the people of Bosnia, considering the fact that they are under propaganda pressure, too. It is a small deed. By expanding the program, we are trying to transmit the information on time and at an appropriate volume to them. [end recording]

At the radio's inaugural ceremony, in addition to Voice and Vision officials, there were a number of officials of the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Culture, and Islamic Guidance and a number of the radio's staff.

The programs of the radio, which will cover the Balkans, will include news on Bosnia-Herzegovina, commentary, report, developments in the world of Islam, and the culture and literature of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian Envoy Welcomes New Service

LD1105093094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 10 May 94

[Statement by Bosnian Ambassador Omar Bahman on 10 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The dramatic war scenes that we have witnessed over the last two years have left the world traditionally unreceptive to our arguments. The new dynamism in the rhythm of the media activities by Islamic countries has provided an opportunity to reaffirm Islamic identity in

all spheres of life and work. Starting today, all Muslims who speak and understand the Bosnian language will be able to listen to the voice of truth, the voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Bosnian language. I hope that, God willing, this radio will prevent the world community from washing the blood and tears of its victims from its hands without any responsibility and will help to expose the background of the shameful intentions of timid, insensitive, and talentless politicians.

I have the honor to thank our Iranian brothers for their exceptional efforts in launching this program. At the same time, I hope that the day of our final victory and of justice and truth for which the Bosnian people have been fighting is very near and that, God willing, on that day we shall be able to share our happiness with them.

President on Gulf Cooperation, Effects of War

LD1005174894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received members of a Kuwaiti scientific delegation, comprising chancellors and lecturers of faculties of law and science of some universities and a number of writers and journalists from that country.

At the meeting the president welcomed the idea of exchange of views between Iranian and Kuwaiti scientific delegations as a valuable and beneficial move. Stressing that it should continue, he said it helps to strengthen science and culture ties between the two countries.

Referring to the problems facing the region, particularly since the Persian Gulf war, the president cited the following as the negative effects of the war: The way that America and some western countries have taken advantage of the situation to justify their illegal presence in the region; the difficult living conditions of the people of Iraq; and moves of the West in instilling fear through adverse propaganda representing Iran as an enemy of the countries in the region, creating an atmosphere of mistrust in order to sell western arms and military hardware, and raising a hue and cry by exaggerating peripheral and divisive issues in the region.

The president added: If the interests of the regional nations, and not the world powers, are considered in cooperation between Persian Gulf littoral states, and issues are reviewed in a sincere atmosphere and with cooperation, the unfavorable conditions in the region would be solved by the countries in the region.

In reply to a question by a Kuwaiti writer about the present situation in Iran, the president said: Iran's future is very clear to us. Thanks to the patience and hard work of our good people and the efforts of our sympathetic officials, we have carried out important fundamental and infrastructural work since the war imposed by Iraq, which is unprecedented in all eras of Iran's history.

He added: Currently many of the raw materials for industry, including metals and petrochemicals, are produced domestically. Large-scale industrial projects—from the research to the operational stages—are being implemented with domestic materials and experts. You witnessed at close hand the knowhow and expertise of Iran's specialists in the field in the course of extinguishing the oil well fires in Kuwait.

The president declared Iran's preparedness to help neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

President Receives Departing Ambassadors

LD1105103494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today separately received the French and Indonesian ambassadors at the end of their missions in Tehran.

According to a Central News Unit report, at his meeting with the president, French Ambassador Mr. De Verdiere said: France is fully aware of Iran's important role in the region and the world. It attaches a great deal of importance to the expansion of its diplomatic, economic, and cultural cooperation with this country, especially in the construction period.

Thanking the French ambassador for his good work toward the expansion of cooperation between the two countries Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that, with more consultation between the two countries' authorities, the way to the expansion of ties will be smoothed in the future.

Also at a meeting with Mr. Sudarsono, the Indonesian ambassador, the president described the recent visit by that country's president to Iran as very effective in deepening mutual ties. Referring to Indonesia's important role in the Nonaligned Movement and the religious and cultural common denominators of the peoples of the two countries the president welcomed future expansion of cooperation.

The Indonesian ambassador said Iran was important owing to her possession of rich natural and human resources. He said: I have gained the best experience of my life witnessing Iran's great progress. I hope that experience will be effective in further deepening the cooperation between Iran and Indonesia.

TEHRAN TIMES Notes U.S. Charges of 'Supporting Terrorism'

LD1105090294 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—A morning English daily here Wednesday [11 May] said that Washington's

charges against Iran and six other countries on supporting terrorist groups was only meant to divert world public opinion from its own activities.

Commenting on the publication of a report by the U.S. in which seven third world countries have been introduced as main supporters of terrorism, the 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote in its editorial that a brief look would reveal that all the seven countries were those that were not prepared to give in to the American global superpower role, and opposed Washington's expansionist policies.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was the greatest center for training terrorists, and coup d'etats and assassinations have been among the basic components of American foreign policy in the decades after World War II, argued the paper.

It concluded by saying that the relations between the American government and the terrorist groups was an "undeniable" fact.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Gets Clean Bill of Health

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[Text] Kathmandu, May 7 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of Nepal returned home in high spirits from the United States Saturday after a medical checkup there which gave him the all clear.

Talking to newsmen at the airport soon after his arrival Koirala said "I am not suffering from any diseases and my health condition is now normal. I will be joining official duties from Sunday."

Koirala's personal physician, Madhu Ghimire, said the prime minister had undergone a detailed checkup at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington and had been given a clean bill of health.

Koirala was advised to go to the United States for the checks after he suffered a series of fainting spells earlier this year. He left on April 22.

Before heading home Koirala stopped in Germany for two days to rest, a member of his family said.